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6 May 1983

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

No. 2750

CONTENTS

ARAB AFRICA

EGYPT

Briefs

Pro -Libyan Organization Members Arrested	1
Haykal Book Nonpublication	1

ARAB EAST/ISRAEL

ISRAEL

Improvement in Local Jewish-Arab Relations Emphasized (Atalah Manzur; HA'ARETZ, 7 Mar 83)	2
Doron, New Woman Member of Knesset, Expresses Views (Lea Levavi; THE JERUSALEM POST, 5 Apr 83)	4
Government Blamed for Agricultural Sector Problems (Isaac Sedomi; DAVAR, 30 Mar 83)	6
El Al Reportedly Resumes Sabbath Flights (Joshua Brilliant; THE JERUSALEM POST, 5 Apr 83)	12
High Technology Industry in West Bank Discussed (MA'ARIV, 13 Mar 83)	13
Country's First Thermoplastics Plant Opens (DAVAR, 14 Mar 83)	16
Utilization of Energy From Cotton Chaff To Begin (Aaron Priel; MA'ARIV, 17 Mar 83)	18
Briefs	
March Exports Down	19

SYRIA

Opposition Leaders Discuss Regime's Atrocities, Al-Asad's Treason
(Shibli al-'Aysami, et al. Interview; AL-DUSTUR, 21 Mar 83) ... 20

SOUTH ASIA

BANGLADESH

Report on World Bank Vice President's Visit
(THE BANGLADESH TIMES, 1 Apr 83) 32

Growing Debt Servicing Liabilities Endanger Economy
(Hassan Abul Quashem; THE NEW NATION, 5 Apr 83) 34

Bangladesh Reportedly Seeks Islamic Conference Post
(HOLIDAY, 12 Mar 83; THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 16 Mar 83) 36

'Slim Chances' Noted
Backing for Candidacy

Paper Reports New Grants in Japanese Aid
(THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 1 Apr 83) 39

Irrigation Crisis Discussed, Neglect of Agriculture Criticized
(Editorial; SANGBAD, 15 Mar 83) 40

Cost of Living in Dhaka Reported To Increase
(Jaglul Alam; HOLIDAY, 12 Mar 83) 42

Troubles Reported in Reopening Universities
(THE NEW NATION, 4,8 Apr 83; THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 7 Apr 83) 44

Three Schools Open, Tension
Press Note on Chittagong
Dhaka University Appeal

New National Youth Organization Formed
(THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 4 Apr 83) 47

Burma Reported Seizing Bangladesh Boats, Fishermen
(THE NEW NATION, 4 Apr 83) 49

Briefs
Mali, Iceland Ambassadors 50

INDIA

Delhi Begins Preparations for Commonwealth Parley
(G.K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 18 Mar 83) 51

Lok Sabha Hails Success of Nonaligned Meeting (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 24 Mar 83)	53
Amnesty International Criticism of India Reported (K. N. Malik; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 24 Mar 83)	54
India, Sri Lanka Pursue Settlement of Stateless (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 14 Mar 83)	55
G. K. Reddy on Signing of Indo-Pakistan Pact (G.K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 11 Mar 83)	57
Record Foreign Collaboration Agreements in 1982 (PATRIOT, 24 Mar 83)	58
Singh Receives Credentials From Kampuchean Envoy (PATRIOT, 24 Mar 83)	59
Analyst on Plans, Stand for Schaffer Visit (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 22 Mar 83)	60
Comments on, Developments in Indo-PRC Relations (THE HINDU, 16, 23, 27, 30 Mar 83)	61
PRC 'Keen on More Visits', by G. K. Reddy New PRC Efforts, by G. K. Reddy PRC Stand on Dalai Lama Trip PRC Goodwill Team , by G. K. Reddy	
Developments of Indo-Nepalese Relations Reported (THE HINDU, 19, 22 Mar 83)	66
King Birendra 'Unhappy' , by G.K. Reddy Trade Treaty Extended	
Analyst on Visits of Netherlands Economic Teams (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 19 Mar 83)	68
Indian Report on Racism Discussed in UN Panel (THE PATRIOT, 20 Mar 83)	69
India, Ethiopia To Expand Economic Relations (THE PATRIOT, 20 Mar 83)	70
Gandhi To Urge World Leader Response to Summit Appeal (G.K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 17 Mar 83)	71
Contents of CPI-M 'Secret' Circular Reported (PATRIOT, 17 Mar 83)	73
Kerala Reported Undergoing Record Drought (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 22 Mar 83)	74

Minister Reports on Aid to Drought-Stricken Areas (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 19 Mar 83)	76
Analyst Scores Delhi Handling of Regional Problems (G.K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 27 Mar 83)	77
Gandhi 18 Mar Speech to Congress-I Officials Reported (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 19 Mar 83)	81
Finance Minister Speaks in Discussion on Budget (THE STATESMAN, 19 Mar 83)	82
Finance Minister Asks More Flexibility of IMF (THE HINDU, 16 Mar 83)	84
External Affairs Ministry Issues Annual Report (PATRIOT, 19 Apr 83)	86
Home Minister Addresses Police Gathering 21 Mar (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 22 Mar 83)	87
Gandhi Message to Committee on Apartheid Reported (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 22 Mar 83)	89
Ideological Education of Congress-I Youth Begins (THE STATESMAN, 17 Mar 83)	90
Formation of Southern Chief Ministers Council Told (THE STATESMAN, 21 Mar 83; THE HINDU, 21 Mar 83)	92
Bangalore Meeting	
Analyst on Delhi Reaction, by G.K. Reddy	
Correspondent Says CIA Working Under USAID Cover (PATRIOT, 21 Mar 83)	95
Reporter Tells Pending Government Changes, Appointments (THE HINDU, 24 Mar 83)	96
Report on Sant Longowal's 13 Mar Statement to Press (THE STATESMAN, 14 Mar 83)	98
Police Reportedly Break Up Pakistani Spy Ring (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 19 Mar 83)	100
Antarctic Expedition Leader Speaks on Return (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 22 Mar 83)	101
Briefs	
AICP China Policy	103
Trade Gap Reported	103
Space Project Financing	103

Upper House Group	104
Soviet Friendship Team	104
New Uruguayan Envoy	104
Pakistan Naval Threat	104
New Kerala Party	105
Kashmir Criminal Law	105
World Bank Aid	105

IRAN

Tehran Paper on Attack Against Beirut Embassy (IRNA, 24 Apr 83)	106
Emigre Paper Blasts Tudeh Party for Political Hypocrisy (NEHZAT, 24 Mar 83)	108
Trial of Tudeh Leaders, Clashes in Northern Jungles Discussed (ETTELA'AT, 23 Mar 83)	110
Women's 4-Day Seminar Ends, Issues Resolution (JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, 9 Apr 83)	114
IRP Organ: 15-Year Period Necessary for Revival (JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, 9 Apr 83)	117

NEPAL

Briefs	
Australian Grant	121

PAKISTAN

Suggestion That Pakistan Hold Direct Talks With Afghanistan Criticized (Editorial; JASARAT, 22 Mar 83)	122
India's Stand on Kashmir Issue Criticized (Editorial; JASARAT, 22 Mar 83)	124
Pakistan Day Raises Candid Questions on State of Nation (Juma Khan; AMN, 23 Mar 83)	125
Aid Pledge by U.S. Reported; Baluchistan Given Special Emphasis (DAWN, 9 Apr 83)	127
Jamat-e Islami Leader Attacks PPP Martial Law Administration (Riaz Shahid; JASARAT, 26 Feb 83)	128
PNP's Qasur Gardezi Reviews PPP History, Other Past Incidents (JASARAT, 24 Feb 83)	131
Member of Muslim League, Jurist Criticizes MRD (Khan Iqbal Ahmed Khan; HURMAT, 17 Mar 83)	133

Planning Group Proposes Huge Investment Target (DAWN, 11 Apr 83)	137
Heavy Rains May Delay Wheat Harvesting (Tariq Zaheen; DAWN, 9 Apr 83)	139
Increase in Gas Prices Termed Imperative (DAWN, 11 Apr 83)	140
Work on Locomotive Plant To Begin Soon (DAWN, 11 Apr 83)	142
Move to Reopen Khokhrapar Route (DAWN, 11 Apr 83)	143
Signature Drive for Prisoners' Release (DAWN, 11 Apr 83)	144
New Gas Price To Be Announced After Budget (DAWN, 11 Apr 83)	145
Jubilation Over Acquisition of F-16's Questioned (Jumma Khan; AMN, 22 Mar 83)	146
Briefs	
JUI To Reunite	149

EGYPT

BRIEFS

PRO-LIBYAN ORGANIZATION MEMBERS ARRESTED--Cairo--The campaign of arrests launched by the Egyptian security services against members of political organizations that support the Libyan leader, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, has widened. The campaign has resulted in the arrest of many individuals who have received large sums of money and a number of cars from the Libyan security services. Those arrested have admitted that the Libyan Cultural Center in Greece is supervising Libyan activity in Egypt, and that most of those who received funds from Libya with the aim of setting up Egyptian organizations that support al-Gadhdhafi and his Green Book took the Libyan money and disappeared among the Cairo crowds. [Text] [GF161602 Kuwait AL-HADAF in Arabic 15 apr 83 p 1]

HAYKAL BOOK NONPUBLICATION--AL-AHALI, the Mouthpiece of the Egyptian opposition, has decided, at the Egyptian Government's request, to cease publication of chapters of the book recently published by former AL-AHRAM editor in chief Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal about the life of late President Muhammad Anwar al-Sadat. AL-AHALI added that the Egyptian Government also decided to ban the entry into Egypt of all foreign papers that publish chapters of the book. AL-AHALI began publishing chapters in its weekly edition last Wednesday. Haykal, in this part, said that President al-Sadat suffered an inferiority complex caused by his inferior class, adding that al-Sadat's mother is the daughter of a Sudanese servant. [Text] [JN201212 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab world 1130 GMT 20 Apr 83]

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IMPROVEMENT IN LOCAL JEWISH-ARAB RELATIONS EMPHASIZED

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Mar 83 p 3

[Article by Atalah Manzur: "Group Formed to Encourage Jewish-Arab Relations"]

[Text] The heads of the local governments in the Galilee decided on the establishment of a permanent body of subregional committees for cultivating neighborly relations and joint cultural and sport activities for Jews and Arabs in the Northern region. This decision came at the conclusion of the first general conference of its kind--during the past six years--which was held in Tiberias under the initiative of the mayors of 'Afula, Shefar'am and Tiberias.

At the conference which was held yesterday at the Plaza Hotel, 70 mayors and heads of local councils participated, including three Knesset members who are the heads of local authorities: Aaron Nachmias, Alignment-Safed; Tawfiq Zayid, Communists-Nazareth; and Benny Shalita, Likud-Menachmia. The mayor of Tiberias, Yigal Bibi, opened the conference with greetings by quoting an Arab adage which says that hurtful things are not forgotten.

And indeed this is how it was. Most of the speakers made a concerted effort not to express themselves in an insulting manner, and to sidestep political issues, but without real success. The mayor of Shefar'am, Ibrahim Nimer Husayn, recited to the Jewish listeners the severe criticism of their Arab neighbors against land confiscation and the absence of industry. His words were marked by pleasantries and politeness, including wishes for success to the new settlements in the Galilee, while expressing the hope that they will not harm the Arab settlements. The mayor of Nazareth, Tawfiq Zayid, also made a similar effort at the beginning of his talk, but he could not finish it without launching a bitter attack against the individual in charge of the Northern District, Israel Koenig--something which aroused reactions of protest by a few Jewish heads of local councils. The mayor of upper Nazareth, Menahem Ariav, devoted his words to polemics with Tawfiq Zayid, but called for a continuation of the meetings and for cooperation in areas under the mayors' authority.

The head of the Sachnin local council, Jamal Trabia, voiced some criticism of government policies in the area of land confiscation and neglect of the Arab villages. He received a sharp response from Knesset member Benny Shalita,

the head of the local council of Menachmia. The head of the local council in Ma'alot, Shlomo Bochbat, suggested that he take care of sanitation in his village instead of bringing up political matters. Yigal Bibi, the mayor of Tiberias, intervened again and calmed things down by quoting another Arab proverb: "A paradise lacking in people is not worthwhile to aspire to get to." The mayor of 'Afula, Ovadia 'Ali, the living spirit behind the conference, asked his listeners to "make an effort to reveal and develop that which unites" and "to leave disputed political matters to the political stage."

9944

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DORON, NEW WOMAN MEMBER OF KNESSET, EXPRESSES VIEWS

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Apr 83 p 5

[Article by Lea Levavi]

[Text] THE DOORBELL rings. Another telegram. It has been a week of 70 bouquets and a flood of telegrams. This time the message is from a women connected with the Alignment. "I think women regardless of their political views were pleased at my election," says Sara Doron, a Liberal MK since 1977 who was chosen by her party on March 24 to be its sixth cabinet member in the Begin government.

Doron, the Likud's Knesset faction head, does not expect "any problems" when her appointment comes up for approval before the House, presumably in the next session, which begins on May 2, though there may be a special session called during the Pessah recess.

Once past that hurdle, she will be the third woman to become a minister during the history of the state. The other two were Golda Meir and, briefly, Shulamit Aloni.

The status of women is one of the areas in which Doron hopes to make a contribution as a minister. "I read with envy that women in Iceland, who want to set up a women's party, take inspiration from Finland, where there are 46 women in parliament. I do not support the idea of a separate women's party, but I want to see more women become more active in existing parties.

"One of my first battles will be to try to get all the parties to place women in realistic spots on their lists for the municipal elections."

As for other areas in which she will work, she does not want to commit herself until she discusses the matter with Prime Minister Begin and with her colleagues.

"For instance, I am very interested in consumerism, which is now handled by the Ministry of Industry and Trade. I do not want to interfere with the work of any ministry, but perhaps my friend Gideon Patt and I can find a way for me to become involved in increasing public awareness on consumer issues.

"In addition to fighting for women's rights in all aspects of life, I think women who reach high positions can give other women confidence in themselves," she says. On the practical level, she mentions her work for passage of the Equal Opportunities in Employment Law.

"I had three purposes: to eliminate discrimination in job ads, in hiring and in promotions on the job. So far, the law deals only with the first two. Several newspapers have been indicted on charges of running discriminatory ads, and I hope the case will be heard soon."

She says she will continue to work not only for elimination of discrimination on the job, but also for equality for women in all aspects of life. At the same time, she believes that equality requires more involvement by women themselves. "I hope women will develop the confidence to want all that they are capable of having and being, and to go out and get it."

FOR NINE years prior to her election to the Knesset in 1977, she served on the Tel Aviv City Council. "I was in Houston when they elected a woman mayor there. Here we do not have even one woman mayor or deputy mayor, and very few women on local councils. I think women's priorities on the issues that affect our everyday lives, which are the issues municipalities and local councils handle, are the right priorities."

Has being a woman hurt her political career? It may have hurt a little at first, she says, but later, such as in getting elected to the Knesset, it helped. "At this point, I really don't think it makes any difference."

How does her architect husband Aaron feel about her political career? "When we first met, I was 17 and very active in the Scouts. Public life was always important to me." She had intended to study law in England, but World War II and her marriage thwarted those plans.

"When my daughter was in first grade, I became active in the Parents' Association and after that in the party."

Though she says she has no higher personal ambitions for herself, she has ambitions for the Likud government. She hopes, needless to say, that the Likud will remain in power for many years to come.

"I really do not mean power as much as I mean public service. I think our job is to serve the people. There is still a lot to be done — for instance, more effort toward economic independence. And the social gaps in society must be closed. At least, we have had the courage to admit that the problem exists and to confront it, head on, through efforts like Project Renewal. Sure there is bureaucracy, and not everything goes smoothly, but I think we are going in the right direction."

SHE IS not concerned about the fact that the Liberal Party does not hold the finance portfolio or other key ministries. "In a good partnership, like in a happy family, it does not matter who has nominal responsibility for what; everyone

pulls together. I also think our current finance minister is excellent."

She cannot gauge what the Liberals' electoral strength would be were they to run in an election alone, but says it does not matter, because the decision to form Gahal and later the Likud were the right decisions. "Thirty years ago, none of us dreamed that we would come to power. The road through the opposition desert seemed very long... I do not think there are more quarrels in the Liberal Party today than there were in the past; the difference is that in the past we had leaders who, despite the differences among themselves, knew how to keep the party united."

In the party's central committee vote on the nominee for the cabinet seat, she received 110 of the 231 votes cast. Her nearest competitor was Deputy Agricultural Minister Pessah Grupper with 89 votes. He was backed by Energy Minister Yitzhak Modai, and Doron notes that Modai made a very nice gesture in suggesting that after the secret ballot, there be an open vote in which she should be elected unanimously. It was done."

Even Avraham Shapira of Agudat Yisrael, who had publicly said his party would vote against her appointment were it put before the Knesset, called her to congratulate her. MK Doron's opposition to the "Who is a Jew" amendment to the Law of Return has angered the four Aguda MKs, but she says they may not vote against her. "Rabbi (Menachem) Porush, with whom I have worked closely on the Knesset Labour and Social Affairs Committee, gave me to understand that there was no such party decision."

Asked her views on Judea and Samaria, she says she could sum them up in one word: survival. We need Judea, Samaria and Gaza for Israel's security, she believes, and Jewish settlement there, with autonomy for the Arab residents, is the only viable solution. "When I came to Israel from Lithuania in the 1930s, Jaffa was an Arab city. I grew up here in Tel Aviv in close proximity to an Arab population. That does not have to be a problem."

She says she is not sufficiently

knowledgable about negotiations with Lebanon to venture an opinion, and she looks forward to knowing more when she joins the cabinet. "What I can say in the meantime, though, is that we have become impatient. We want everything now."

"We want peace now, and trips abroad, now, and everything now. It took 30 years to make peace with Egypt, and it will take more time for the peace to develop. I too, would like to see an agreement with Lebanon tomorrow, but if that cannot be we have to learn to bide our time."

GOVERNMENT BLAMED FOR AGRICULTURAL SECTOR PROBLEMS

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 30 Mar 83 pp 4, 5

[Article by Isaac Sedomi: "Agriculture at the Abyss"]

[Text] "The advanced Israeli agriculture, which has been characterized all these years by constant development, which raised annual production at an average rate of 6-7 percent and increased exports by more than 20 percent is dying"--so they say at the Agriculture Center building. Haim Peled, the director of the economic department at the Agriculture Center, answers the question of the status of agriculture from an economic point of view: "The situation which was already bad two or three years ago, and became even worse last year, is worse by several fold this year. The trouble is that there is no chance for the situation to improve, as long as the policy of the Likud government continues and this policy will not change as long as this government remains, even if a loyalist of this government, the president of the "Farmers Association", Eliahu Isaacson, comes out against it and cooperates in the battle to change the policy with the Agriculture Center. The government has succeeded in five to six year of rule to bring about the destruction of one of the basic and glorious branches of the country's economy."

Explanation And Proof

Under the Labor government, agricultural policy was based on the assumption that agriculture is not only a source of livelihood but much more than that—settlement, conquest of the desert, expansion of the country's borders, physical security, food security and so on.

Hence the necessity to insure that the agricultural population does not decrease. Since the constant efficiency and the advanced technologies raised yields while decreasing the need for manpower, it was necessary to continue the development drive for which large development budgets and favorable credit and financing terms were arranged. And since the rapid development resulted in surpluses of most products in the local markets, it was necessary to concurrently develop exports and provide suitable terms which would encourage the farmers to export profitably.

The Likud government, on the other hand, reduced agricultural development budgets, and limited credit and financing for agriculture. Due primarily to devaluation policies agricultural exports suffered and caused losses of millions of dollars annually for farmers. Consequently there is no more development, the annual increase in production has been slowed and almost frozen and income from exports has decreased from year to year. Recently the explanation and proof for this was indicated in the updated data furnished by the economic department of the Agriculture Center.

Farmers Income in the Years 1976-82

<u>Year</u>	<u>Measure of Real Output</u>	<u>Measure of the Real Balance Between Labor and Capital</u>	<u>Real Wage Measure</u>	<u>Gap Measure</u>
76-77	100	100	100	100
77-78	101	91	102	89
78-79	103	90	111	81
79-80	108	87	108	80
80-81	111	84	118	71
81-82	113	80	116	69

This data shows that the real agricultural production increased during the past five years by only 13 percent, as compared to 6-7 percent annually in the previous years.

As opposed to the increase in production, the balance between labor and capital deducted from the consumer price index decreased by 20 percent. In contrast to the real decrease in farmers' income of 20 percent, the real average wage of other employees increased by 16 percent and thus the gap in income between the two sectors widened by more than 30 percent. We already discussed the principal reasons for the severe crisis in agriculture: we shall elaborate on them further.

Damage to export profitability resulted this year because 25 percent of each dollar was required to offset the worsening currency rate which has been with us since the end of 1979. Improvement in 1982 would have raised the income of exporters by \$125 million.

Worsening credit terms for agriculture is evident in the cancellation of credit directed toward production in local markets, linkage of loans and more. In 1982 the agricultural sector paid, on the average 12 agorot interest for each shekel of production compared to 4 agorot in 1975.

As is well known, in 1982 interest rates decreased with respect to all types of credit. Less known is the fact that concurrently there was a worsening in the composition of credit sources for operating capital in agriculture, while the portion of regulated credit was greatly reduced at the expense of increasing the portion from free sources.

A. Interest Rate in Percentages

	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>
Regulated Credit	52.4	45.0
Free Credit	178.1	147.6

B. Credit Volume--Millions of Shekels

	<u>Total</u>	<u>1981 Percent Composition</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1982 Percent Composition</u>	<u>Rate of Increse</u>
Regulated Credit	1159	57	1986	41	71
Free Credit	890	43	2906	59	227
Credit Total	2049		4892		139

Total credit increased at the rate of inflation and the increase of volume. Regulated credit increased by 71 percent while free credit increased by 227 percent. Total of interest expenses was not decreased despite the lowering of interest rates.

Exports of agricultural produce, which amounts to 25 percent of each dollar regarding the total of general Israeli exports, with the exception of diamonds, has been experiencing a difficult crisis for several years. Signs of the crisis are expressed in the simple fact that since 1980 the trend of increases in export has been halted. Instead there has been a decrease in the volume of exports. Through the years of 73/74, export value has tripled from 191 to 589 million dollars--an annual rate of increase of 20.5 percent. In 81/82 the volume of fresh produce exports was reduced by \$25 million or by four percent. During the first three months of 1983 there was an additional decrease of approximately \$30 million, from \$146 million in 1982 to \$116 million in 1983, which is a reduction of 20 percent in the nominal rate. Since agricultural exports are mainly intended for Europe, the revaluation of the dollar constitutes an important factor in the decrease of export values. Considering the fact that the existence of settlements at their planned scope requires a real yearly growth of 10 to 15 percent in agricultural output intended for export, the meaning of the crisis, beyond the economic ramifications, deals a blow to the principles of the establishment of settlement over the long term.

This difficult picture of agricultural exports which went from rapid growth to a decrease and has now been halted, is tied to one central factor: the considerable gap between the cost of currency rates of the agricultural export basket--as opposed to the increase in basic prices which are needed in producing the export product. Insuring the existing rate compensates the farmers only by 40 percent from the real loss and this is the source of the crisis in these exports. In short, it is not the efficiency of the exporters or the marketing system, nor is it the product quality or the economic crisis in Europe that are the factors which if treated could extricate agricultural exports from their crisis. It is clear that the customers for our agricultural produce in Europe were not injured by the

crisis there and the efficiency of the producers and distributors and the quality of the produce have not been substantially different in the past.

The simple truth is that the government which brought about the economic revolution and in its path high inflation, to the point that it almost went beyond the control of the government leaders, began to fight inflation, among other means, by sacrificing export profitability. According to past declarations, it was to be a temporary "sacrifice", but in the meantime the sacrifices fall foremost on the agricultural sector, which remained without a government guardian. This is the sixth year that the agriculture ministers do not fulfill their central role--the progress of agriculture and guarding of its interests in the power struggle in the economy. And so, agriculture is discriminated against compared to other sectors such as finance, investment, and research and development. It is by no accident that the plan for insurance rates was structured in accordance with conditions for industrial exports. If the formula for insurance rates had been built according to input factors and the agricultural currency basket, then agricultural exports could have performed respectably; in the absence of this possibility agriculture could have been given special compensation which would have recognized its special trade terms. However, there is no one in the government to deal with this matter. Below is a summary of rate insurance regarding agricultural exports to Europe in 1982:

Yearly Average-1982	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
Oct. 1981-Sept 1982	Oct-Dec 1981	Jan-Mar 1981	Apr-Jun 1982	Jul-Sept 1982
<u>Base Month</u>	<u>Dec 1980</u>	<u>June 1981</u>	<u>June 1981</u>	<u>Dec 1981</u>
1. Net Compensation for additional dollars according to the formula of insurance rate = 67.16	7.19	6.85	6.39	11.72
2. Net Compensation for additional dollars on the base of input and agricultural basket = 11.99	15.50	8.70	11.75	19.80
3. Gap of additional dollars from agricultural exports = 4.83	8.31	1.85	5.36	8.12
4. Value of Insured Exports in thousands of dollars = 482,940	130,750	207,761	112,508	32,011
5. Total Compensation for Agricultural Exports in thousands of dollars - 23,336	10,865	3,842	6,030	2,599
6. Net Loss Due to Advancing the Base Month from Dec 1980 = 35,737	--	21,120	11,442	3.175
7. Total Yearly Loss not covered by insurance rate in thousands of dollars = 59,073	10,865	24,962	17,472	5,774

The tabular data verifies the farmers' claims that since the time when the existing system of insurance rate for exports has been used, agricultural exports have been compensated for worsening trade by only 40 percent of the real loss.

Between Oct. 1981-Sept. 1982 when calculations regarding agricultural exports to Europe amounted to \$564 million and the insured sum was \$483 million and \$59 million was uninsured, the annual loss exceeded the \$34.5 million that was paid as compensation.

An additional \$36 million or an average of 7.40 cents of an additional dollar is lost by the agricultural exporters because of advancing the base month and absorbing the gap in this period at a rate of 10 cents net of each additional dollar; that is after the premium has been increased by 6 percent to match the European inflation. Also here it is easier for industrial exports to be reexamined and perhaps even changed to other types of exports since the average length of transactions is between 6-8 months after each advance in the base month.

This is not the case for agricultural exports which mainly include such products as flowers and plants or cotton which because of its present volume, has no practical alternative.

We shall conclude this report by pointing out the ramifications of raising the price of water at the beginning of next month. Sixty percent of all water consumption in agriculture is for citrus fruits, avocados and cotton. Raising the price of water one shekel for each square meter will result in the following data:

	<u>Citrus</u>	<u>Cotton</u>	<u>Avocado</u>
Loss of income per dunam in shekels	630	350	630
The rate of loss in shekels	--	25	31

The total loss to these three products if extended to April, 1983, will be 460 million shekels or \$11.5 million.

9944
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EL AL REPORTEDLY RESUMES SABBATH FLIGHTS

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Apr 83 p 1

[Article by Joshua Brilliant]

[Text] TEL AVIV. — A possible coalition crisis suddenly loomed last night when Agudat Yisrael MK Shlomo Lorincz charged that El Al had resumed flights on the Sabbath and on holidays, thus violating a controversial article of the coalition agreement.

Insisting that his party would immediately take up the matter with the prime minister, Lorincz said that the coalition agreement "is 100 per cent clear and allows for no loopholes."

The airline maintained yesterday that when its planes and crews are under lease to other carriers, they may fly on the Sabbath. Lorincz stoutly insisted that this violates the coalition agreement.

El Al spokesmen yesterday said that the airline and its charter subsidiary Sun d'Or do not fly passengers or cargo on the Sabbath. Management's standing orders say the planes may not take off on Friday if they are unable to reach their destinations before the Sabbath begins, spokesman Kalman Bar-On said.

He admitted, however, that an El Al plane crew had been contracted to Cargo Airlines (CAL), and that it had flown to Cologne on Sunday

night, thus travelling on the last day of Pessah. Such leasing to CAL is common, he said, and its flights are not covered by the coalition agreement.

Article 18 of the coalition agreement says: "It will be ensured in theory and in practice that El Al will not operate on the Sabbath and Jewish holidays, either in Israel or abroad. El Al planes will not take off, fly or land on the Sabbath or Jewish holidays."

Reached at his home last night, Mordechai Nivon, CAL's deputy director-general, said his company must fly produce on Saturdays to reach markets by Mondays. Each shipment is worth some \$500,000.

Accordingly, planes have been taking off when "CAL had no alternative," he said.

"We don't talk about it too much — but I understand (the Sabbath flights) were a tacit understanding," a senior CAL source maintained. He indicated that if the arrangement with El Al is discontinued, CAL may charter foreign planes.

Lorincz said that at a meeting with Prime Minister Menachem Begin shortly before El Al resumed flights in January, the prime minister had explicitly agreed there would be no flights on the Sabbath — not even of cargo.

HIGH TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY IN WEST BANK DISCUSSED

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 13 Mar 83 p 5

[Article: "Silicon Valley in Samaria"]

[Text] The mayor of Ashkelon, Eli Dayan, complained last week that the government is not placing high technology industry in the southern region of the country, including his city of Ashkelon. This process, complained Dayan, results in a "brain drain" from the development towns in the South, since the educated youth does not come to settle in these towns and even those who are discharged from military service and who are not anxious to be part of the "simple" industries move North.

This strong criticism by Eli Dayan is an alarm signal which should especially warn those who invest most of their efforts these days to develop the new cities behind the "green line" and those who talk about "Silicon Valley" in Samaria, and to those who are turning this region into a concentration of the new science industries of Israel, similar to the valley south of San Francisco in California, where the "future industry" of computers in the U.S. has been concentrated.

Up until now the feeling of being discriminated against was focused in the housing area. The Minister of Housing, David Levy, was forced from time to time to reject claims about diverting construction budgets to Judea and Samaria. However, governmental sources know that they will be lying if they claim that governmental and public agencies which are linked to the governing party devote the same amount of attention and the same amount of direct or indirect budget support toward locating high technology plants in Beit Shean, Shlomi and Ofaqim as opposed to that in Ariel, Elkana and Efrat.

For the sake of the truth, it should be emphasized that the problem that Eli Dayan has raised is not as easy to solve as in the past when Pinchas Sapir would initiate the establishment of cotton spinners in the development towns which had just been established. Unlike the computerized textile industries of today, the spinners required the employment of many unskilled workers and they constituted the first place of employment for many of the veteran inhabitants of these development towns.

Today the government's role as far as taking the initiative in such a field is restricted. The establishment of future electronic plants is an idea that has its place in the offices of the private sector and not in government offices. Even the chief scientist at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the minister of finance's adviser for computers cannot provide even limited aid in the establishment of a plant at a certain region.

Unlike what happened in the past, the pioneers of high technology plants do not face a shortage of investment capital but a shortage in manpower. They will elect to build their plants where their highly skilled workers will prefer to build their homes. One speaks here not only about a limited number of engineers and technicians who want a higher standard of housing and better schools for their children, but also of a social environment which contributes to the professional advancement of the highly skilled workers in these plants.

The "Silicon Valley" experience proves that geographical proximity creates "mutual fruition" of ideas and initiatives in an industrial setting where initiative and constant upgrading are vital to the existence of every plant. In Ariel they believe that in this city it will be possible to concentrate "a critical mass" of manpower for the computer industry, that is a sufficient supply of inhabitants of a high skill level in the area who will constitute a nucleus for additional engineers and technicians who themselves will justify the establishment of additional plants.

There is no certainty that the effort to turn Samaria into the Israeli "Silicon Valley" will indeed succeed. Today we see that the most important plants of the Israeli scientific industries are flourishing in the vicinity of the large cities, Haifa, Tel Aviv and soon also in Jerusalem where a large plant of the American firm, Intel, is now being built. Since one cannot assume that firms such as Scitex, Elscint or even Teva will move the centers of their production to Judea and Samaria, it is reasonable to assume that the scientific quarters that have been built close to the large cities will constitute a rallying point for other high technology plants.

These plants do not require a lot of land or even a lot of investment capital to build structures and acquire equipment. The proximity to the universities and research institutions in the large cities is more important to the new plants being built today than government directives which Eli Dayan misses. If we add to that the fact that every industrial firm which today raises capital through the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange is required by law to declare that it gives up the right to receive loans and grants to encourage investment, we will understand that it would be very difficult to convince these firms to build high technology plants in Ashkelon or even in Qiryat Gat or Sederot.

What then can be done? It is necessary to stop thinking only in terms of a high concentration of population in any place in the land of Israel on both sides of the "Green Line." Israel is small enough to justify the expansion of all branches of industry, including "sophisticated" industry to all parts of the country and to refrain from creating preferred areas

for "the industries of the future." We should not encourage the settlement of people with technical skills in one region that has an "ideological importance" and neglect other cities. It is no secret that establishing "sophisticated" plants in development towns will hasten their development more than any relief program.

And we will conclude with an advice to Eli Dayan. If the mayor of Ashkelon is really concerned about the development of his city and other cities which are not close to "Silicon Valley" in Samaria, he should see to it that the heads of his party, Tami, forget for a while their concern with the law for increasing assistance to large families and notice the much larger danger. The real danger of widening the social gap in the state of Israel is the danger of concentrating "industries of the future" far from the cities in which the majority of newcomers from distressed countries settled.

9944

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COUNTRY'S FIRST THERMOPLASTICS PLANT OPENS

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 14 Mar 83 p 10

[Article by DAVAR's Economics Reporter: "Three Million Dollars Have Been Invested in a New Plant in Kibbutz Erez"]

[Text] Three million dollars have been invested recently in the establishment of the first plant of its kind in Israel for the production of thermoplastics products in Kibbutz Erez in the region of Sha'ar Haneger. The plant specializes in producing sheets and other thermoplastics materials and more than 50 percent of its production is for export.

Moshe Efrati, the plant's manager, has reported that the new plant has sophisticated equipment and that 20 members of the kibbutz work in the plant. Presently there is no other plant of its kind in Israel, hence the plant devotes a substantial part of its activities in developing innovative procedures for the production of thermoplastics products. There is a well-equipped laboratory in the plant in which three hundred thousand dollars has been invested. The plant has a machine for the production of plastic-covered sheets through a hot liquefaction process which can produce sheets in widths of up to 2.15 meters; it is the first machine of its kind in Israel. There are only two other plants in the world which have this type of machine.

Another investment which has been reported by the union of kibbutz industry is in the Pachmas plant.

Seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars is now being invested in establishing a wing for the production of carton boxes of different sizes, in the Pachmas plant which is partnered by Kibbutz Ein Hachoresh, 80 percent, and Kibbutz Lehavot Chaviva, 20 percent. The new wing will produce a new kind of packaging for powdered drinking products, coffee, detergents, and also frozen food products.

Aaron Alexandroni, the plant's manager, reported that the packages will be produced in the new wing, which will begin production in the middle of 1983. Those packages are to be a substitute for tin and plastic packages and bottles which are being used in the market today. Five people will work in the new wing and it will be equipped with fully inspected automatic equipment. The knowhow for the establishment of the new wing was acquired in Europe.

The establishment of the new wing in Pachmas will build upon the already existing paint and carton packaging departments which have been operating in Pachmas for quite a few years. A large part of the products of the new wing are intended for indirect export. A considerable portion of the equipment for the new wing has been already ordered and the wing will begin operating in June.

9944
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UTILIZATION OF ENERGY FROM COTTON CHAFF TO BEGIN

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 17 Mar 83 p 8

[Article by Aaron Priel: "Cotton Chaff Will Be Used To Produce Electricity in Sha'ar Haneger Plants"]

[Text] Soon technological utilization of "plant fuel" to produce energy will begin in Israel.

In the regional plants of Sha'ar Haneger thousands of tons of cotton chaff and wheat chaff will be used as an alternative raw material to crude oil.

A special incinerator that will be installed in the regional plants will supply energy for the production process and processing of potatoes, for the poultry slaughterhouse, and for the cotton carding machine. Details of the Israeli plan will be furnished in an international symposium about Energy in Agriculture that was convened in Kiryat Anavim and held under the auspices of the National Council for Research and Development in the Ministry of Science and Development.

Producing energy from cotton chaff is the idea of Elitzur Payes Zuki, 49 years of age, a member of Kibbutz Erez, who is an engineer in the Sha'ar Haneger plants. The settlements in the Sha'ar Haneger region grow cotton and wheat on 50 thousand dunams, and out of a year's yield there remain 10 thousand tons of cotton chaff and 10 to 15 thousand tons of wheat chaff which are not utilized.

The industrial plants in Sha'ar Haneger consume three thousand tons of crude oil a year to produce energy at a cost of 750 thousand dollars. Engineer Payes said yesterday that already in the first year the new system will save four hundred thousand dollars. The incinerator will be imported from South Africa. He added that in the second stage a system of turbines will be established to produce electricity from plant fuel and supply the industrial plants in Sha'ar Haneger, which consume millions of kilowatts of electricity annually. According to him this will be the first place in the world where electricity will be produced from chaff.

9944
CSO: 4423/115

BRIEFS

MARCH EXPORTS DOWN--Jerusalem economic circles yesterday expressed shock at the March export figures, which show an unprecedented downward trend. A senior official told THE JERUSALEM POST that the economy earned about \$100 million less in March than it had earned in March 1982. Exports in March, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics, were \$444m. as compared to \$572m. in March 1982. A spokesman of the Ministry of Industry and Trade said that the March decline was a continuation of recent trends. The only branch of the economy to hold its own was diamonds. Metal and electronics exports were hit particularly hard, down 35.7 per cent; food exports declined 28 per cent, wood and paper 30 per cent and textiles 14.2 per cent. Ministry spokesmen said that the new economic measures decided on recently, involving support for exporters funded by the recently imposed levy on foreign-currency purchases, would remedy the situation. Industry representatives reportedly told Finance Minister Yoram Aridor that the measures were insufficient, whereupon the finance minister retorted that if \$175m. were of no help, he would cancel the measures, as it was a shame to waste money. Industry and Trade Ministry spokesmen conceded, however, that they would be watching the world market and that further steps to support the exporters might be necessary. Ministry sources noted that in March, 1982, there had been a large sale of aircraft, and this explained the decline in metal industry exports. [Text] [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Apr 83 p 1]

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SYRIA

OPPOSITION LEADERS DISCUSS REGIME'S ATROCITIES, AL-ASAD'S TREASON

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic No 278, 21 Mar 83 pp 3-6

[Interview with opposition leaders Shibli al-'Aysami, Amin al-Hafiz and 'Adnan Sa'd al-Din; "Leaders of National Alliance for Liberation of Syria; al-'Aysami: Meeting of Nationalists, Socialists and Islamic [Current] Embodies Historical Responsibility; al-Hafiz: When Ryler Relies on Tank and Gun, He Loses His Legitimacy; Sa'd al-Din: Arab Governments Keep Silent on Regime for International and Political Considerations; al-'Aysami: If It Were not for Military Coups and Fascist Regimes, Syria Would Be Number One Model of Democracy; Sa'd al-Din: Most Arab Government's Criticize al-Asad's Regime But Remain Silent on Their Abhorrence of This Regime for Political and International Considerations"]

[Text] Since issuing its charter a year ago, the National Alliance for the Liberation of Syria has become a tangible reality whose decisive effects are expected to appear in the Arab situation in the near future.

A delegation representing the alliance is currently visiting a number of European capitals to explain the Syrian issue. The delegation includes Shibli al-'Aysami, assistant secretary general of the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party's National Command; 'Adnan Sa'd al-Din, deputy controller general of the Muslim Brotherhood and chairman of its Political Bureau; Amin al-Hafiz, former president of the republic; Muhammad Abu al-Nasr al-Bayanuni, Islamic Front secretary general; Abu 'Umar, member of the Provisional Regional Command of the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party in Syria; and 'Abdallah al-Tantawi, member of the Muslim Brotherhood's Political Bureau. The delegation will be joined later by representatives of other movements and parties--the Socialist Arab Party and the Nasirist Socialist Union. This important interview, conducted by AL-DUSTUR with three of the Alliance's leaders, is an endeavor to define the features of the Syrian issue in its current phase.

[Question] The National Alliance for the Liberation of Syria has become a political and struggle force that is well known in the European and international community. But what point has the alliance reached, what are its present horizons and how will it act?

['Adnan Sa'd al-Din] The alliance's existence is a tangible reality, and so are its charter and its movement. There is no doubt that this is the first step. We hope that it will be followed by other effective and serious steps on the path to liberating Syria, as indicated by the alliance's name--the National Alliance for the Liberation of Syria.

All our aspirations are embodied in one word: Rescuing the homeland from the fire that is consuming it.

All other aspirations will follow. We are not concerned with power, cabinet offices or amirship. The homeland is the place of safety, reassurance and psychological calm. That is where our civilization, our creed, our nation and our people are. That is where our land and everything is. We can sum up our hope in one word: Rescuing the homeland, which is being burned by the Tatars, the Moguls or a tyrannical group which, as far as we know, has no equal in destruction, fragmentation, plotting, scheming and conspiring against this nation, this homeland and this people.

[Shibli al-'Aysami] What has happened since last March has been the emphasis on following up the political events in Lebanon and other places and on issuing several statements on these events. The truth is that the alliance has been expressing its opinion, explaining its position and organizing itself. But the fundamental thing that must be recognized is that the birth of this alliance represents a new phase in the life of Syria, considering that the alliance includes all of the main currents of struggle that had been feuding and fighting over a third or a half a century. Attaining this result is a major gain and a phenomenon that has not yet occurred elsewhere in the Arab homeland. It is a major gain and a new phenomenon for the nationalist, socialist and religious Islamic movements to meet. This phenomenon reflects the feelings of the parties to the alliance, which includes these movements. It reflects their awareness of the historical responsibility and of the catastrophes that have afflicted Syria as a major country in the Arab struggle and as the throbbing heart of Arabism, as it is truly called, and have afflicted the Arab cause in its entirety as a result of the division and internal fighting among these movements. Achieving this practical result, putting a stop to the infighting among these currents and attaining a positive stance--namely, the meeting and cooperation of these forces to confront a severe and imminent danger embodied in this regime with its terroristic nature, its fascism, its inhuman and unpatriotic methods, its collusion against the main issue, namely, the Palestinian issue, its encouragement of the war between Iraq and Iran and its support for a foreign force against an Arab force that had previously helped it--all this makes us, as well as the people and other broad circles, believe that the regime is more dangerous to the future of Syria and of the pan-Arab cause than any foreign force, colonization or invasion. The coalition and alliance of all these forces is something dictated by the pan-Arab and national interest and by awareness of our historical responsibility. As a result of the hard lessons experienced by Syria, we must provide a living example, must accept each other, must deal on a democratic basis and must understand each other's thoughts. It has become evident through practical experience that remoteness is the cause of much estrangement.

Meetings and discussions with tolerance and an open mind eliminate a lot of the negative ideas that all of the parties had about each other. This is a fundamental point in understanding democracy correctly and profoundly. Moreover, when we meet in this manner, we bring nothing new because Syria from the 1940's to the 1950's lived a democratic life in which the freedom of parties was evident.

Syria accomplished a lot then. Thus, we are returning to the sound initial stage in which there was democracy. Had Syria continued as it was then and had the military coups and the fascist dictatorial regimes not occurred, Syria would be the number one model, not only in the Arab world but in the entire developing world, and we would have been able to achieve sound steps toward union. But this is how things have gone and the important thing is for us to learn our lessons from the past and not to persist in the mistakes of the past. It is our evaluation that we have benefitted greatly. This agreement among the currents is precious. We have as of the moment great hope that the alliance will continue without retreat, procrastination or the waste of time.

The discussion and debate held in past years were not a loss. It was necessary for us to understand each other, not only at the political level, not just out of political necessity and not just because of temporary or transient political terrorism. We aspire to continue with a strategic logic and with far-reaching goals that go beyond political factors to intellectual and ideological factors so that all flowers may blossom at the same time without the presence of the rancor, negative attitudes and division that lead to paralyzing all our forces collectively. It is true that there has been an absence of information activity during the period you have spoken of, namely, the period since the rise of the alliance. But there have been meetings and some means of organization, and these are a must. It is work for a normal and continuous movement, keeping in mind that we have proven our presence and expressed our opinion on all the political events, such as the Lebanese events, the Tripoli story and the Palestinian Congress in Algiers. I don't know if you have received any of the alliance's statements on those occasions. The word is the fundamental thing in this phase. But if what is meant is that there has been nothing at the level of violence, then the truth is that we are not supposed to carry out resounding operations resulting in great losses to us, meaning that we are not supposed to carry out operations that do not produce actual and fundamental results; that is, we are not supposed to engage in operations for nothing.

[Question] The present regime in Syria is often presented as if it were stability or the right of might that has turned into the might of right, thus gaining a degree of false legitimacy.

[Amin al-Hafiz] Regarding the legitimacy issue, legitimacy is the people's and the constitution's. Military coups and tanks have not created any real legitimacy. If a regime continues to depend on the tank and the gun for its survival, then it loses its legitimacy. People in the East, the West,

the third or the fourth world may recognize such a regime, but this legitimacy has no essence. There is superficial legitimacy and there is the essence of legitimacy. For any ruler to be a ruler who pleases God, the people and the conscience, the people must support him and he must serve the people. But when the people are in one valley and the ruler and his group in another, then this legitimacy becomes superficial legitimacy. In addition to all that has been said about the terrorism and brutality of the regime in Syria, this regime is in fact a treasonous regime. It has betrayed its people and its main issue, namely, the Palestinian issue, and has also clearly betrayed the Arab nation to which it belongs. There may be interpretations--and he who interprets correctly has two rewards and he who interprets wrongly has one reward--but there can be no interpretations when treason is concerned. If we take this regime and analyze it briefly from the start and up to this hour, we find that the least that can be said about any of its actions is that it is treasonous. Treason epitomizes its actions. It lost the 1967 war, in addition to striking its own party and brothers. This is some kind of treachery and treason.

If we consider rationa-ly, wisely and fairly what the Syrian regime has done, and Hafiz al-Asad's role in particular, we find that what the regime did in 1967 to Syria, to the Arab countries adjacent to Israel or to occupied Palestine and to Egypt in particular cannot be described as anything less than high treason.

Egypt's airfields were hit at 0730 on 5 June. Within 2 hours and 50 minutes, that is in less than 3 hours, the Egyptian Air Force was destroyed. King Husayn made contacts at the start of the strike and he says in his book: I contacted Hafiz al-Asad, the [then Syrian] minister of defense, and told him that if we use the Jordanian Air Force and Syrian Air Force in the absence of the Israeli Air Force in its strikes against Egypt's airfields, we can inflict heavy losses on it, especially since an aircraft is exhausted, its oil is low, its pilot is frozen and its ammunition partly consumed upon its return from a sortie. King Husayn adds verbatim that al-Asad said: We have no knowledge of the war. Give us an hour's time. He then called and said: Give us half an hour's time. This went on for 3 hours, during which the Egyptian Air Force was completely destroyed.

This is something said politely by King Husayn, who accuses al-Asad of high treason in his book. The king's language is polite, just saying: This is what happened.

During these battles and after its air force had been hit, the Egyptian Army became easy prey in the open land of the Sinai Desert. The air force has the first and the last say. Its role is fundamental. This means that the Israeli Air Force did what it wanted any way it wanted after eliminating the Egyptian Air Force from the scene. Syria made no move, either by air or by land. What is more, King Husayn contacted the Syrians personally, asking for ground forces. The forces that were sent were less than what he wanted and he could not use them the way he wanted. The king says in his book: I told a Syrian officer who had a complete brigade under his command to advance to such and such a place. The officer answered: I will only advance on an order from my command. Between I will and will not advance, the war ended.

A question arises here: What is Hafiz al-Asad's responsibility--his real responsibility, which many militarists have failed to properly evaluate?

Hafiz al-Asad was the minister of defense and, moreover, the army commander and commander of the air force and air defense forces, in addition to his political positions, which included membership in the ruling party's national and regional commands. He combined the political and the military at the same time. You may say: The minister of defense is a political official in all countries of the world, so what is his responsibility as an army commander? If you want to write this, then I hope that you will give it its due because many people have overlooked this point.

Army commander means here that he is a minister with a field responsibility, the same as a brigade commander, a regimental commander, a division commander or the commander of an army. Field responsibility means that if he commits a mistake militarily or if he withdraws or is defeated, he is brought to account, regardless of his being a politician. It means that he is brought to account as you bring a brigade commander or a soldier to account. Where did al-Asad get this job? The truth is that before the 23 February coup, the group plotting the coup, namely, al-Atasi, Zu'ayyin, Salah Jadid and Hafiz al-Asad, proposed the idea of abolishing the post of army commander in the Syrian Army. The Syrian Army had a chief of staff, an army commander and a minister of defense. They abolished the army commander. When the position of army commander is abolished, the commander's tasks and powers are entrusted to the chief of staff, if the chief of staff is everything. But if the minister of defense is given an actual field command, then the army commander's tasks are divided between the minister of defense and the chief of staff. Thus, the minister of defense in Syria came to hold the task of army commander, in addition to his political task. Therefore, he is as responsible for his field command as is any other military commander. When the war broke out, al-Asad issued several communiques. In one, he ordered the Syrian Army to withdraw arbitrarily [kayfiyan]. This order was neither military nor political but rather high treason. An army does not withdraw arbitrarily but according to planned orders. Withdrawal is a phase of war, the same as assault, defense and advance. One of the most important conditions of an organized withdrawal is that the command lead it so that it does not turn into a defeat, because if it does turn into a defeat, such a defeat is horrible. He ordered the army to withdraw. You know that the Syrian Army is a heroic army and that he was the cause of the defeat. There have been varied opinions on the outcome of the battle. Some people say that he surrendered within 48 hours and others say he did so within 24 hours. In addition to the order of arbitrary withdrawal issued to the army, he also instructed the army, through communique No (66), to surrender al-Qunaytirah 24 hours, some say 48 hours, before the Israelis entered it. This means that the fighters in al-Qunaytirah had to throw down their weapons and flee because Israel had surrounded them, which is not true.

I don't believe that there is greater treason than the treason of a military commander responsible for his field command ordering his army to suffer defeat.

What were the losses in this war? Not many people have mentioned them. Muhammad al-Zu'bi, the minister of information, said that the figures on the war losses had to be obtained from the Ministry of Defense, meaning that the minister of information could not speak on his own. Muhammad al-Zu'bi announced to Syria and to the world that we lost 125 or 126 dead and nearly 1,000 wounded, even though a larger number was lost during the combat and during the transportation of the forces.

An Italian paper quotes de Gaulle as having asked: What are Syria's losses in the battle? When told that they were 125 killed and 1,000 wounded, he said: There is complete collusion between the Syrian rulers and Israel's rulers.

Other battles followed. There was the 1973 battle. The fact is that the main goal of the 1973 battle was to recognize Israel under the rattle of arms [only after going to war and gaining some respect]. Some Arab countries say that it was a war of revival but, regrettably, they are like those who say do not approach prayers and then stop so as to mislead those who are listening. Some Arab countries participated in the deception for their own ends. For Damascus, it was a war of revival to be completed with the recognition of Israel under the rattle of arms so as to mislead the Arab nation, and the Syrian people in particular. Two traitors [al-Asad and al-Sadat] planned and carried out this war and the officers and troops, who fought heroically in some positions, were deceived. Our troops have always been heroes, since ancient times. But victory and defeat depend on the commander. If he is brave and heroic, provides a true example and prepares well for the war, then he will succeed. If he is a cowardly traitor colluding with the enemy, then the outcome is foregone.

In just the first 2 days of the 1973 war, the Syrian Army crossed a part of the Golan but did not enter al-Qunaytirah, which is located at the beginning of the Golan, or on the truce line. Israel stayed in it and 2 days later it advanced to Sa'sa', occupying a part of Hawran Governorate and then of Damascus Governorate, in addition to al-Qunaytirah Governorate.

As a result, Syria lost nearly 26 more villages. This is when Iraq took its honorable stance.

And...

Al-Asad's regime approved [Security Council] Resolution 338. This resolution contains two main points, both for the purpose of reminding, namely: The creation of a [Palestinian] homeland and implementation of all provisions of Resolution 242. This means recognition of Israel.

As to what this regime has done to Tall al-Za'tar, to Lebanon and to our people, it is something difficult to be proud of for a man whose people have undergone all this suffering and who is personally responsible for this people. What I mean is that the weapons received by Syria, including missiles, rocket launchers, heavy artillery and other destructive weapons, have been used against the Syrian people and against the Christians and Muslims in Lebanon.

The Syrian Army has plundered Beirut, Zahlah, Tripoli and any other place it entered. As the late Kamal Junblatt said in his book:

The Syrian Army entered Lebanon and it was like a green carpet. But it has devoured it like the locusts that devour all that is green.

He says that the Syrian Army left no rugs, no crystal and no cars, meaning that it has done what the Tatars and the Moguls did not do, not to mention the latest battle in which it fought the Palestinians. The regime could have done a lot militarily had it fought honorably. Its army is a heroic army, even though its command is a sectarian one. The soldier, even the 'Alawite brother, remains an honorable man who belongs to his country, his homeland and his army.

But it is the commander who withdrew disgracefully and in collusion with Israel. Israel advances and he withdraws. He allowed the missiles to be an easy prey for the Israeli Air Force, which destroyed them and destroyed with them 90-96 Syrian aircraft and nearly 300-400 tanks, which did not perform their duties as they should have, meaning that they did not fight. The Lebanese arena is, militarily, a forest arena, and it is dangerous to the attacker. It is an arena in which valley, mountain and city war is involved and an arena with bottlenecks and numerous unavoidable paths where a damaged vehicle or a boulder is enough to block passage for hours. He withdrew in a damaging way.

The important and fundamental thing that must be underlined is that there is a strategic agreement between Israel and the United States. The fact of this agreement is that each side is loyal to its commitments. This is the agreement. As for Hafiz al-Assad, he has announced to the Palestinians, the Arabs and all people that there is an alliance, a strategic alliance, between him and the Palestinians. In fact, this alliance has not been put into practice tactically or strategically. Rather, the alliance has been a burden to the Palestinians. Al-Assad has abandoned them, massacred them and withheld from them reinforcements and fedayeen who wanted to come from Algeria, Syria or any other country. He also prevented the Syrian Army from taking part in the battle. Finally, he has completed his task. It is said that the Syrians killed the Palestinian army chief of staff, who had fought heroically, in Ba'labakk area instead of honoring him and awarding him its highest medal.

[Question] Resistance sources and Algerian sources confirm this.

[Amin al-Hafiz] Yes. What is more, it has been reported that the Algerian head of state offered to send 40,000 volunteers and weapons to assist the Palestinians if Syria would fight. But al-Assad turned down the offer and stopped the fighting.

It is well known that there is collusion. What confirms this collusion is that more than 2 months ago, the U.S. secretary of state said something to the effect that there is coordination and understanding between Hafiz al-Assad and Begin and that he fears that this is being done behind the back of the United States itself.

Several sources, and even Sharon himself, have mentioned this. The Israeli opposition once attacked Sharon and Begin, saying that there were Israeli soldiers in the Tall al-Za'tar battle--Syria's battle--with the Phalangist forces and in the presence of Hafiz al-Asad and officers from his group.

This is a treasonous regime.

A ruler who comes to serve the people may be a killer or a tyrant, but a patriotic one.

But Hafiz al-Asad, on top of all of his treason, has turned on the Syrian people. His great massacres have spared no city, from Dar'a to al-Suwayda', Damascus, Homs, Latakia, Aleppo, Hamah and the villages of Tadmur and Dayr al-Zawr. For example, government forces pulled down the decorations set up by the people of the city of Homs on the occasion of the prophet's birthday. The people stood up to them and tens of citizens, some say hundreds, were killed, the city was blockaded and the roads were barricaded.

Then various massacres occurred in Ariha, Latakia, Jisr al-Shammur and hundreds of small villages. In Sarmadah, entire families were killed. The big city of Aleppo was blockaded. On the (first or second day of the holiday), a resistance member fired on an intelligence vehicle that was passing by and an intelligence officer was hit. An entire company or more was sent to the quarter across from the scene of the incident and overlooking the cemetery. The people were celebrating the holiday. The army came and the people received the troops, invited them to their homes, treated them hospitably and the kids rejoiced on the occasion. About an hour later, the order came: "Gather 100 people and kill them for the one officer."

[Question] Excuse me, but what is the date of that incident?

[Amin al-Hafiz] 4 February 1980. The troops came and immediately turned into brutes, gathering old and young men, and even women and children. The celebration turned into mourning when the troops killed 82 or 83 persons without any trial or questioning. They told the women: We still need 17 more to reach the figure. It is like the Nazis and France. When one Nazi was killed, 100 resistance fighters were killed in return. Al-Asad has not been content with the living and has taken revenge even on the dead. His bulldozers have bulldozed away graveyards so that the resistance cannot use them. Regrettably, this base vengeance has even reached the tomb of Hananu, the resistance hero.

[Question] In the media, only the Hamah massacre has been publicized.

[Amin al-Hafiz] The truth is that loathsome acts were committed in the Hamah massacre. Even a man who spends his life between women and alcohol has some sort of manliness [but not the regime's men].

In Hamah, the massacres were committed in mosques, historical houses, markets and baths. There was plundering and looting and women's hands were cut off. I have been told, and this may be exaggerated or true, that hundreds of girls between the ages of 14-16 years were raped. A

French professor has said that the number was 720. You know that Hamah citizens are conservative people. Our people are conservative people. There is a lot of truth to what has been said or reported. These are disgraceful acts that have been perpetrated in Syria and that deprive this regime of any international or Arab legitimacy.

A small class dominates all the other classes of people, including the 'Alawites who are of the people. We, as an alliance, have not come to rescue one part of the people but the entire people, including the 'Alawites themselves, from their leaders, who have betrayed their homeland and their people.

[Question] On the basis of the alliance's practical actions and of your awareness of the Arab situation, do you feel that there are Arab ears listening to you?

[Sa'd al-Din] As far as we know, there is a deep gap between the regime and the people in Syria and between the regime in Syria and the Arab people outside Syria. I noted once that information we acquired from direct sources indicates that most of the Arab governments criticize this regime but keep their abhorrence for it under wraps out of international and political considerations. The man [al-Asad] is immersed in treason but he relies on the major powers that control the area. This is on the one hand. On the other hand, any Arab government that fails to condemn this regime commits a grave mistake, not against us but against its own people. It is as if such a government gives no consideration to the future relations between its people and the Syrian people. I say this and shoulder the responsibility for it. I say it because it is a truth that must be said. I believe that the regime in Syria is collapsing. This regime and the foreign support on which it depends have achieved for the interests of the major powers and the influence of the Zionist forces what they themselves could not achieve. This regime has achieved for them what they have failed to achieve in Lebanon, in Syria and in Egypt. This regime has given them the opportunity to achieve dreams that they would not have been able to achieve.

I say that this regime is collapsing and that the enemy's support for it is simply delaying the collapse but cannot save the regime.

[Question] Hasn't the time come for the Arab regimes and Arab governments to understand the Syrian people's problem, not as a political problem but as a human problem at least?

[Sa'd al-Din] Al-Asad's throwing himself into the bosom of the major powers, his involvement in international detente, his achieving the major powers' objectives and his exposed coordination with Israel--a coordination that is no longer based on speculation or implication because it has become a given fact and confirmed knowledge--will delay the regime's downfall but will not save it. A regime that has used heavy weapons to hit the major cities and to massacre people by the tens of thousands, burying them in mass graves, cannot survive and is a collapsing regime, even though its downfall may be delayed. It is a regime that has lost its *raison d'être*.

Hafiz al-Asad has no card to bet on. He has lost the Palestinian card, the Lebanese card and the card of social justice. He has plundered the people's wealth and has exported the entire public national wealth to European and U.S. banks. A state of panic has hit Syrian markets. The Syrian pound has deteriorated. The Syrian wealth has been plundered. He has also failed in the sphere of Arab unity and has entrenched secession. The alliance's task is to speak in the name of the Syrian people, with all their heritage, groups and inclinations. There is no conflict between a pan-Arab inclination and an Islamic inclination in Syria. The alliance has drawn up the formula of the main goals of the Syrian people. This formula or these goals safeguard the people's creed, faith, religion, homeland, Arabism, interests and particular qualities. The alliance's task now is to speed up this downfall.

As for those who turn a deaf ear to the Syrian people's tragedy and ignore all the fraternal, religious, pan-Arab and national ties, and even disregard human compassion for the Syrian people's suffering--as for these people, we leave them to God first, to the judgment of history second and then to the Syrian people themselves who are the judges in this regard.

The Syrian people are a great people who have played a major role in the area's history and who are truly the area's throbbing heart. The alliance's task is to help the people to break their shackles as an immediate goal and, as a long-range goal, to resume their role, to carry their message in the area and to perform their duty toward their homeland and their nation.

[Question] Of course, this is the democratic formula (for toppling) the regime. But I feel from the spirit of the discussion that this formula has been viewed as a prelude to a democratic experiment in case of repatriation, God willing. How do you view the issue?

[Amin al-Hafiz] Mr Shibli [al-'Aysami] said at the conclusion [sic] of the discussion that this alliance came into existence only after a bitter experience that all of us and the Syrian people have undergone. Syria will accept no formula other than democracy, true democracy. The alliance established between the pan-Arab movement and the Islamic movement is not a tactical alliance. Syria will be destroyed and all the Arabs will be destroyed [if something is not done]. Insofar as Syria is concerned, democracy is applied soundly in this alliance, which includes all factions of the people. On the other hand, it is our hope that the Syrian people will be able to determine their future. God willing, our experiment in Syria in the future will be a democratic experiment, which will spread throughout the Arab homeland. This formula for the meeting of political forces, including the pan-Arab and Islamic forces, will be a model in Syria, God willing--a model that will spread throughout the Arab homeland and achieve full Arab unity.

[Question] Regarding the question of the war with Iran, how do you view the creation of new alliances in which the Arab allies himself with the foreigner against an Arab brother?

[Shibli al-'Aysami] There is a venerable Hadith that says: If you have no shame, then do what you want. The head or the leaders of the regime in Syria have reached a point where they are not ashamed of anything. The entire chain of their actions and positions vis-a-vis the Palestinian issue is one of collusion and plotting, especially during the latest Israeli invasion of Lebanon, which has exposed the cards clearly. Add to this their falsification of the unity slogan. How many times have they embarked on unification experiments and then plotted against them, proving afterwards that all their experiments are nothing but pure hokum. They have done this with Egypt, Iraq, Libya, the organization [PLO] and Jordan, all for nought. Falsifying the unity slogan leads ultimately to spreading despair among the masses of the possibility of achieving this unity. This is the most dangerous thing that could happen to the issue of unity and to the strategy, concept and doctrine of unity. This is what has happened. The masses no longer believe in any plan between two countries and consider such a plan as something designed for deception. This is a serious consequence. Who has played the main role in this falsification? The Syrian regime.

The same thing has happened with socialism. Foreign firms and joint firms have now become the biggest firms [in Syria]. They have been exempted from taxes. An example is the Spanish firm [not further specified] and the harvester and tractor companies. This is in addition to the corruption, the graft and the looting currently being experienced by Syria and never experienced before, not even under al-Quwwatli's administration. At that time, "we created an uproar" if we discovered, for example, that the government was involved in stealing 400 pounds. This was enough to topple Shukri al-Quwwatli. Now, they swallow 400 million pounds and no one dares say a word. Socialism is nothing but falsehood and deception.

Freedom is absent. Cities and a people are being destroyed. Nobody's home, dignity or land is safe. Emigration is by the thousands. Scientific know-how is leaving Syria and the reason is that man has lost his dignity, security and stability. When these simple requirements of life are lost, then it is a major catastrophe.

Therefore, there is no freedom, socialism, unity, moral values or humanity. I don't think that any Arab country or Third World country has known such corruption, arrogance, fascism or brutality in its modern history.

[Question] What about the national forces inside Syria?

[Shibli al-'Aysami] They no longer have any bases. It is said that even Fa'iz Isma'il and those who call themselves Socialist Unionists have left. They have become leaders without bases. As for the Nasirites in the Socialist Union and Jamal al-Atasi, they are unable to engage in effective confrontation, if not cooperating with the regime.

Riyad al-Turk's communist faction (the political bureau) is in jail. They are a part of the opposition and we proceed along a parallel line with them, meeting and coordinating with the faction.

The fact is that there is no weighty and influential force supporting the regime. Those who support it are opportunists.

8494
CSO: 4404/295

REPORT ON WORLD BANK VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 1 Apr 83 pp 1, 8

[Text] The World Bank Vice-President, Mr. David Hopper has assured the Chief Martial Law Administrator, Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad of continued flow of funds to Bangladesh from the International Development Association (IDA), an affiliate body of the World Bank reports BSS.

The assurance was given when the visiting World Bank's Vice-President called on the CMLA in Dhaka on Thursday.

Mr. Hopper expressed his high appreciation at the way the Bangladesh economy has broken the stagnation this year and set an unique example of good management of the economy.

Mr. Hopper specially mentioned about the development efforts Bangladesh has been making to improve her economic condition after the shock the economy received during the last three years and the extraordinary decline in her terms of trade.

The World Bank Vice President was happy to see that the Bangladesh government has been able to bring inflation under control.

He appreciated the move towards encouraging the private sector and the improvement in the credit distribution. As a partner in development the World Bank takes pride in the rapid progress of Bangladesh he added.

Mr. Hopper also discussed with the CMLA matters relating to the external aid climate aid out-look project implementation issues and the programme of the forthcoming aid group meeting in Paris.

The CMLA told the World Bank Vice-President that Bangladesh is making all out efforts to bring about an improvement in its economy. It is in fitness of things that Bangladesh should be assisted by the donors in its development efforts he said.

Finance Minister Mr. A M A Muhith and senior officials of the Ministry of Finance and Planning were present during the discussion.

The chief of the World Bank Resident Mission in Bangladesh was also present.

Sultan Mahmud

The World Bank Vice President, Mr. David Hopper has assured continued and increased assistance for seismic survey drilling and development of the energy and natural resources sectors of Bangladesh.

The assurance was given when Mr. Hopper called on DCMLA and Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud at Secretariat on Thursday.

Mr. Hopper expressed his satisfaction at the way the sectors were managed specially in the reduction of system loss of PDB from previous year's 55 per cent to current year's 28 per cent.

He also noted with satisfaction that the revenue collection of PDB has gone up to Taka 210 crore as against Taka 160 crore of last year.

Mahbubur Rahman

Mr. David Hopper called on Mr. Mahbubur Rahman Minister for Local Government Rural Development Cooperative and Religious Affairs at the latter's secretariat office on Thursday.

They reviewed the progress of different World Bank financed ongoing projects and discussed possibilities of further assistance.

Mr. Hopper assured continued support of his bank and stressed on expeditious preparation of projects finalisation of negotiations between the World Bank and the government and their timely implementation.

Mr. David Hopper also separately met the Minister for Agriculture Mr. A Z Obaidullah Khan and Minister for Industries Mr. Shafiqul Azam and discussed with them matters of mutual interest.

He will meet the Minister of Finance and Planning Mr. A M A Muhith today (Friday).

CSO: 4600/1973

GROWING DEBT SERVICING LIABILITIES ENDANGER ECONOMY

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 5 Apr 83 pp 1, 8

[Article by Hassan Abul Quashem]

[Text] Despite precautionary measures by the government, the debt servicing liabilities (DSL) of Bangladesh is growing at an average annual rate of 60 per cent.

In the current financial year the debt servicing liability is estimated to increase at the rate of 19.7 per cent of the country's total export earnings. The rate will, however, increase to an unmanageable proportion in the next financial year (1983-84), jeopardising, according to knowledgeable quarters, the Pearson safety valve. According to an official estimate the debt servicing liabilities of the government will increase to 22.7 per cent of the country's total export earnings during the next financial year, which will be 2.7 per cent above the safety limit set by the Pearson Commission.

The Pearson Commission constituted to probe and report on the debt burden of the developing countries in early seventies, considered 20 per cent as the standard rate of debt liabilities for the developing countries.

According to the commission, beyond this limit the debt servicing of the developing countries would be dangerous for the economic safety of the respective country.

Bangladesh is now getting an annual average of nearly 1.2 billion US dollar in foreign aid against which it has to pay foreign exchange equivalent to Tk. 250 to 300 crore on account of debt servicing every year.

More than 50 per cent of this net flow are coming in the form of grant while the remaining is on soft loan.

Government officials have expressed deep concern over the alarming increase of debt servicing liabilities. According to them Bangladesh will have to contract new loans to pay off old debts. Because of this additional burden, the net flow of foreign aid has become very negligible for any meaningful contribution to the growth of the economy.

Upto December 1982, Bangladesh has borrowed about 8.26 billion dollar out of which 513 million was hard loan. It has also included 636 million dollar loans accepted as the pre-liberation loan. Out of the total amount Bangladesh has successfully converted 540 million dollar to grants by bilateral persuasion and an amount of 433 million dollar has been repaid by the government.

The debt burden may further accentuate from 1983-84 following the maturity of the principal repayments of the medium and long-term loans from IDA, ADB, IDB, Saudi Arabia and USA. The debt servicing position of the country is fast deteriorating due to maturity of these loans disbursed soon after the independence.

The position has worsened further following the borrowings from the international capital market at higher interest rates. The government is from time to time, forced to undertake short-term borrowing measures to meet the country's serious balance of payments situation. The suspension of the extended fund facility (EFF) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) during early 1980-81 has acted capitally to aggravate the situation further.

Export earnings of Bangladesh did not record any growth during all this time. The earnings either remained stagnant or declined considerably during the last several years, pushing down the repayment capacity of the country.

CSO: 4600/1002

BANGLADESH

BANGLADESH REPORTEDLY SEEKS ISLAMIC CONFERENCE POST

'Slim Chances' Noted

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 12 Mar 83 pp 1, 8

[Text] Bangladesh without naming its candidate has started diplomatic maneuverings for the second time to capture the post of secretary-general of the 43-member Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC).

So far the success, however, is limited to single assurance from the Republic of Maldives whose president was given a warm reception here recently.

The election to the post will be held during the Islamic foreign ministers' conference scheduled to be held in Dhaka from December 6 to 10.

Pakistan is another aspirant for the office and its Law Minister Sharifuddin Pirjada who is well known in the Muslim countries because of his long tenure as cabinet minister in that country will contest as Pakistan's nominee.

Bangladesh foreign ministry officials have so far refused to disclose the name of the country's candidate but reliable sources said that in all likelihood present Foreign Minister A. R. S. Doha will be the nominee.

Doha, not known much for any Islamic leaning has shown keen interest for the position, according to sources and the nomination itself will be decided by him as he has the capacity to influence the process.

Two other names are also mentioned in the diplomatic circle and those are of former foreign minister Professor Shamsul Huq and Bangladesh Ambassador to the United States Humayun Rashid Chowdhury.

An official announcement made recently confirming Bangladesh's desire to run for the post said, 'A suitable person would be nominated by the government in appropriate time'.

The government has, meanwhile, started approaching various member states of the OIC for support. According to some sources, during the visit of the Turkish President to Dhaka last month, the government sounded for support but Turkey want to know who would be the candidate and said that without knowing the name of the candidate they could not make any commitment.

Assam

Diplomatic circles of OIC countries in Dhaka pointed out to a contradiction in the position of Bangladesh and most of the OIC members which is related to the disturbances in the Indian province of Assam.

While Bangladesh maintains that the Assam disturbance is an internal affair of India the OIC as a group has expressed its concern over the situation because of large-scale killing of Muslims there.

The OIC a few weeks back sent a message to Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi expressing its concern over Assam killings. Mrs Gandhi replied that it amounted to interference in the internal affairs of her country by OIC. Some sources said that the absence of Saudi Arabian kieg from the non-aligned summit is related to the killing of Muslims in Assam.

Diplomatic sources say that Bangladesh's stand in this connection will be deplored by most of the OIC countries and this will adversely affect her prospect, in the election for the OIC secretary-general.

Further, if Bangladesh fail to nominate someone who commands respect in the Islamic World, Pakistani nominee will sweep the election.

Indonesia is also learnt to be contemplating for contesting for the prestigious job but has not announced it officially. If Indonesia does not contest, it may be a straight fight between Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Bangladesh also wanted to contest in 1979 for the post (when Tunisian Habib Chatty was elected) but had to withdraw because it could not manage any significant support. The country's candidate at that time was former President Abu Sayeed Chowdhury.

The position falls vacant as Habib Chatty completes his two terms of two years each this October.

Backing for Candidacy

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 16 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] Over 18 countries have supported the candidacy of Bangladesh for the post of Secretary-General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference. The tenure of office of the present incumbent Mr. Habib Chatty expires in December.

The election to the post of the Secretary-General of the OIC will be held during the Islamic Foreign Ministers conference to be held in Dhaka in coming December.

Pakistan will contest with Bangladesh. Pakistan has already named Mr. Sharifuddin Pirzada as its nominee.

The spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs told newsmen on Tuesday that the process of enlisting support from member nations would continue throughout the year.

Bangladesh as the host nation would do her best to obtain a consensus on the election of the Secretary-General. Bangladesh will also try to ensure that the contest for the post of Secretary-General does not create a division within the conference, the spokesman said.

Bangladesh feels that the appointment should carry the element of unanimity in the greater interest of the solidarity of the OIC, the spokesman maintained.

Bangladesh, to avoid unnecessary speculation, has not yet names its candidate. The spokesman on being asked said "it is assumed that the support for a national candidate is always conditional upon the acceptability of the candidate".

CSO: 4600/1974

PAPER REPORTS NEW GRANTS IN JAPANESE AID

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 1 Apr 83 pp 1, 12

[Text] Japan will give Bangladesh Yen 3.2 billion as grant for procurement of irrigation materials to help increase food production under the exchange of notes signed in Dhaka on Thursday between the two countries reports BSS.

The grant--approximately Taka 32 crore would be disbursed within one year ending March 31 next year to be utilised by Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation for procurement of shallow tubewell engines for shallow tubewells project.

Offered under Second Kennedy Round Programme to help increase food production the purchase of the irrigation materials under the grant would have to be made from Japan. In last two years Bangladesh received grants of Taka 23.04 crore under the same programme.

The total Japanese grant assistance to Bangladesh during the current fiscal year including the present one amounted to Yen 11,130.00 million equivalent to Taka 111.30 crore approximately.

Besides this Japan has also provided soft term commodity and project loans to the tune of Yen 25,500.00 million equivalent to Taka 255.00 crore during the year.

One lac tons of rice worth Yen 4,900.00 million (Tk. 79.00 crore) have also been received from Japan during this period. In addition firm commitments from the Government of Japan regarding Yen 500.00 million (Tk. 5 crore) grant for G. C. I. sheets Yen 30000 million (Tk. 3 crore) grant for steel tubular poles and Yen 2000.00 million (Tk 20 crore) loan for Bakhraoad Gas Field Development Project--II have been received during the current fiscal year. The flow of assistance from Japan has gradually increased in recent years and Japan has now emerged a one of the largest bilateral donors to Bangladesh.

CSO: 4600/1972

IRRIGATION CRISIS DISCUSSED, NEGLECT OF AGRICULTURE CRITICIZED

Dhaka SANGBAD in Bengali 15 Mar 83 p 4

[Editorial: "Irrigation Crisis, Loan Problem and High Cost of Equipment"]

[Text] With the interruptions in agricultural activities, apprehension about reduced agricultural production has surfaced. This apprehension has become dominant in reports from rural Bengal. Farmers are voicing many grievances, evidence of their deep disappointment.

A news item from Gaffargaon reported that the price of farm equipment and supplies has escalated. Prices of fuel oil, lubricating oil, farm equipment and other agricultural supplies have gone up a great deal, and this has put a great strain on the farmers' purchasing power. At the same time, agricultural loans have failed to materialize at the right time. As a result, it is feared that the official target of 29,700 tons of rice production from 24,000 acres of land in Gaffargaon will not be met. There are also other grounds for this apprehension. Last year, 190 electric pumps were used for irrigation; this year only 83 are in use. Of these, ABCD supplied only 53. At the same time, the agricultural cooperatives have been unable to take any quick steps to remedy the problems. Their activities proceed at a very slow pace. In keeping with regulations, the granting of agricultural loans has been suspended. As a result, probably 16,000 co-op farmers may not get any loans this year, although a large number of cooperatives have already paid their outstanding loans.

Also, irregularities in granting loans have been reported from Ullapara. Thirty-nine farmers of Barghar union have brought charges of dishonesty and other irregularities. They have charged that loan officials harassed them unnecessarily, and have arbitrarily stopped granting loans. However, a gratuity of 100 taka for every 1,000-taka loan will approve any loan without any hitch.

As a result, many farmers have not been able to plant rice. In many other instances, irrigation has come to a stop. Apart from a lack of finances, there are other reasons and a deterioration of law and order is one of them. Miscreants steal pumps in the night, then demand large sums for returning them to their rightful owners. In the Ullapara area, larceny and thievery have created a serious crisis in agriculture.

As a matter of fact, if irrigation does not commence in this dry season, it is almost certain that there will be widespread damage to crops. Similar apprehension has been expressed in a report from Nasratpur. Banks did not provide financing for pipe wells. Whatever irrigation equipment the farmers possess is plagued with constant mechanical problems. In addition, there is not enough fuel oil to go around. On top of that, there is the problem of the receding water level in the rivers. As a result, Iri-Boro rice on extensive acreage is being ruined, all because of lack of irrigation facilities. The shallow-well drilling project that the farmers had undertaken on their own was scuttled because of continuous harassment by one group of officials and also partly due to insufficient supplies.

All of the above news items were reported in SANGBAD of 13 March. Additional problems concerning irrigation and loan crises were reported even prior to that. On 10 March, reports from Tangail, Gauripur, Iswardi, Kesabpur and Karimganj were published. Everywhere the problems and crises are identical. Conditions are similar all over the nation. This is the time to cultivate Iri-Boro rice in various parts of the country. In a particular area, perhaps one kind of problem is holding up planting; in another area, although the planting has been completed, some other problem has surfaced. The problem is most serious in irrigation. In particular, the lack of electric-powered pumps has made the problem even more acute. Then there is the increased cost of farm supplies and problems in the distribution of agricultural loans. To sum up, agriculture has become so entangled in regulations that it is incapable of overcoming the myriad deficiencies and obstacles. Maybe the system that has been created for agriculture is unable to perform its task. Alternately, maybe the system itself is faulty. A clear picture of the sorry state of affairs concerning the Iri-Boro crop becomes apparent from the reports noted above. Ultimately, it can be assumed that the fears are about to become a reality. Unless demand can keep pace with supplies, the chances of a miracle appear to be impossible.

Poverty, a lack of resources and limited supplies dominate any discussion. But we are expected to carry on with our responsibilities, or our struggles, by accepting these realities. If there were reasonable arguments in favor of these problems, we could have consoled ourselves. When the system itself stinks of corruption and is replete with intentional harassment, there remains no room for comfort. If the damage to the crop is the result of basic mismanagement, then who should be held responsible for the disaster?

12195
CSO: 4607/5

COST OF LIVING IN DHAKA REPORTED TO INCREASE

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 12 Mar 83 pp 1, 8

[Article by Jaglul Alam]

[Text] Following the price explosion, poor income generation and overall recessional conditions, the cost of living of the middle class community in the capital city in March this year has increased by about 7,60 times as against the cost of living in 1969-70 and about 3.21 times as compared to the cost in 1973-74.

Accordingly, the value of one taka (100 poisha) in 1969-70 has now plummeted to 13 poisha in real term in March 1983, while the value of 100 poisha in 1973-74 now stands at 32 poisha.

The Dhaka middle class cost of living index envisages that during the period between 1969-70 and 1982-83 the cost of living escalated mainly because of the high expenditure on house rent, fuel and electricity of the middle class community of Dhaka city. During the period the cost in housing increased by about nine times while the expenditure on fuel and electricity increased by about 7,91 times in real terms.

Index of expenditures on housing in 1975-76 reached at 405.82 (base-100 in 1969-70) which went up to 723.53 in 1979-80 and again rose to 933.17 in the fiscal 1981-82. This year the cost of living index in housing shot up to 1072.37 or about 9.5 times higher than that of 1970.

Index of expenditure on food which was 100 in 1969-70 went up to 384.58 in 1975-76 and 549.72 in 1979-80. In January last year the index rose at 714.77 and in March this year it has again increased to 760.81. It indicates that the cost on food in real terms in March this year has reached about 7.62 times higher than that of 1969-70.

Basing the index at 100 in 1969-70 the expenditure in real terms on clothing and footwear rose to 380.90 in 1975-76 and 513.53 in 1978-79. It escalated to 578.27 in the last fiscal year and 631.77 in the month of March this year.

One Year Increase

During the period between March 1982 and March this year, the expenditure in real terms in general has increased by 5.36 per cent while the cost of living in terms of food has increased by 4.28 per cent. Similarly, the cost on housing of the middle class people has increased by about 13.04 per cent. The general cost of living on miscellaneous items during the period has increased by about 3.80 per cent.

On the other hand, taking the index base 100 in 1973-74 the overall-cost of living of the middle class people in Dhaka city in 1980-81 rose by about 2.54 and in 1981-82 by 2.96 times. The cost of living in general terms in January last year reached 299.42 which in March this year shot up to 321.71 registering an increase by over seven percent in 14 months.

The index on cost of food of the middle class people which was 294.85 in March last year increased at 314.92 in March this year, an upward rise by almost five percent.

The cost on housing during the period between March 1982 and March 1983 increased by about 7.92 per cent while the cost of index on miscellaneous items during the period increased by about 4.59 per cent.

The continued price hike of the essential commodities in the city is a common feature. Since the beginning of this year the prices of essential commodities have recorded a steady upward trend.

As against the prices of the previous week, the price of medium quality rice in the city market this week rose by 15 to 20 takas per maund. The price of coarse rice has also registered an increase by 10 to 15 taka per maund during the period. The price of flour also increased by 50 poisha per seer.

Last week one seer of hilsha fish was selling at 20 takas which was about 25 per cent higher than that of the previous week. The prices of other types of fishes also increased considerably.

During the period the prices of most of the vegetables were steady while the prices of onions, pulses, chillies, beef and mutton etc. registered a little upward trend.

CSO: 4600/1974

TROUBLES REPORTED IN REOPENING UNIVERSITIES

Three Schools Open, Tension

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 4 Apr 83 pp 1, 8

[Text] Authorities of three universities yesterday unlocked the gates to the students and teachers after 46 days of closure following the mid-February violent incidents.

But the campus was still fraught with tension and the students of the University of Engineering and Technology went on a strike, brought out procession and held meeting on the first day of reopening.

The universities that reopened yesterday are the University of Engineering and Technology, Mymensingh Agriculture University and Chittagong University. Those still under lock and key are Dhaka University, Jahangirnagar University and Rajshahi University.

The government ordered closure of all the six universities of the country from February 16 for an indefinite period when the student movement took a violent turn and student-police clashes occurred in different parts of the country leaving three persons officially dead and many injured.

When the campus of the Engineering University was back to life the Dhaka University campus, just opposite the gate of BUET, was still showing a deserted look giving an impression of uncertainty and. Neither the teachers nor

the students whom I came across on the campus could even give a hint when the university would resume the classes.

Our BUET correspondent adds: A successful strike was observed yesterday on the first day of the reopening of the Engineering University at the call of the 14-party Student Action Committee in protest against police actions throughout the country on February 14 and 15.

The BUET students organised a protest rally in the morning after boycotting classes. The rally condemned the police actions on February 14 and 15 and demanded publication of the list of names of those who died on those days.

The student leaders addressing the meeting also demanded immediate withdrawal of Martial Law in the country and a judicial probe into the February incidents. The leaders further demanded the immediate reopening of Dhaka, Jahangir Nagar and Rajshahi universities and withdrawal of the proposed education policy.

Mosbahul Alam Chowdhury Dipu, BCL (M-H), Md. Abu Saleh, BCL (A-B), Mahtabuddin, General Secretary, EUCSU were among others who addressed the protest meeting.

After the meeting, the students brought out a procession and paraded the campus.

The attendance of students on the first day of the reopening was very poor. Out of 2600 students about 500 turned up yesterday, most of them being residents of Dhaka.

The residential halls still wore a vacant look with poor turn out.

However the university walls give a more colourful look as they were filled with posters graffiti demanding the withdrawal of Martial Law, proposed education policy, and judicial probe into February incidents.

Meanwhile a gaib-e-janaza for those who died on February 14-15 would be held within the university campus this morning.

Press Note of Chittagong

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 7 Apr 83 pg 1, 22

[Text] The Ministry of Education on Wednesday night issued the following Press Note about the re-opening of the Chittagong University reports BSS

The Press Note said. The Government decided to reopen the Chittagong University the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology and Agricultural University from 3rd April 1983 in the first phase which were closed following the disturbances of the 14th and 15th February 1983. In respect of Chittagong University this decision was taken after consultation with the University authorities.

Following the announcement over news media the Chancellor's Secretariate communicated the Government decision to the Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University about the reopening and advised him to take necessary steps in this regard. Concurrently on 31st March 1983 the V.C. of CU called a meeting of the University Syndicate to inform it of the Government decision. In the meeting the Syndicate made an observation about the desirability of the re-opening of all the universities simultaneously but did not adopt any resolution contrary to the decision taken by the Government.

The teachers of Chittagong University restrained from taking classes allegedly as a decision of the CU Teachers Association and with the concurrence of the Federation of the University Teachers Association. The association justified its position on alleged ground that university was not reopened by the authority as prescribed in the Chittagong University Act 1973. Copies of the resolution of the Syndicate meeting and the meeting of the Chittagong University Teachers Association were forwarded by the V.C. of CU to the Chancellor's Secretariate.

On receipt of this intimation from the V.C. and after hearing that the university teachers were abstaining from their duties the Secretary of the Ministry of Education Secretary to the Chancellor accompanied by Commissioner Chittagong Division went to the Chittagong University campus and held a meeting with the V.C. Deans of

Faculties Provosts of halls and Professors of the University and some representatives of the Chittagong University Teachers Association. In the meeting the following points were made by the teachers present:

A. That in closure and the re-opening of the university the Government has violated the provisions of the CU Act 1973.

B. That the university was reopened without reference to the proper authority prescribed in the same act.

C. An attempt has been made to isolate the university from other universities namely Dhaka Rajshahi and Jahangir Nagar universities.

D. That the teacher, were not consulted by the Government before it took the decision to reopen.

E. That during the period of closure there had been some losses of properties in the campus and that some relief would have to be provided.

The above points were also communicated by the V.C. CU to the Minister for Education at Dhaka over telephone soon after the meeting was concluded. The observations of the Government on the issues raised above are the following:

A. Under normal circumstances it is the function of the Syndicate to take decision regarding closing or reopening of the university. But because of the situation on the 14th and 15th February '83, the Government closed down the university. As regards reopening of CU, the Government with prior consultation with and consent of the concerned authority and in full assessment of the situation announced the date. At the same time it advised the university authority to take necessary and appropriate steps to resume academic activities. In complete understanding of the above, the V.C. CU called an emergency meeting of the Syndicate on 31st March '83 to invoke the provision of CU Act 1973.

B. Each university is a separate entity governed by laws of its own. In normal circumstances the university authorities take decisions regarding vacations, holidays publication

of results and conducting examinations, admissions etc independent of one another. While taking decision to re-open the CU, the Government was guided by the considerations of conditions prevailing in the campus.

C. There is no provision either in the CU Act 1973 or in any statute thereunder which provides for formal consultation with the teachers of the university, nor is there any precedent for the same. Furthermore, the V.C. CU was in touch with the Chancellor's Secretariate and with the Education Minister throughout the period of the closure.

D. Subject to verification of the losses as reported the Chancellor has already made a financial grant by way of relief. If after final assessment further relief is required, the Government will consider it sympathetically.

It is a matter of great regret that the CU teachers while demanding the preservation of the University Act 1973 have themselves violated the provisions of the same. There are thousands of students who returned to campus and are waiting for the resumption of normal academic activities.

The government expresses keen concern over the teachers abstention from performing their duties. It views this as extremely harmful to the interests of worried guardians and most students. The university is already behind in its academic calendar. Besides should the teachers continue to refrain from resuming duties they would be deemed to have committed offence under the Chittagong University Act 1973.

Dhaka University Appeal

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 8 Apr 83 pp 1, 8

[Text] The Syndicate of the Dhaka University yesterday called for reopening the University and holding a meeting of the Senate to appoint its Vice-Chancellor.

The Syndicate met yesterday with the acting Vice-Chancellor in the chair and adopted a series of resolutions in which it made certain demands to create a congenial atmosphere for reopening the University.

In a resolution the Government was urged to ensure through appropriate measures that the academic atmosphere is not disrupted by means of interference in the autonomy of the university and action by the members of the law enforcing bodies on the campus without permission from its authorities.

The meeting expressed dissatisfaction at the closure of the university for an indefinite period without conferring with its authorities.

It was observed in the meeting that the closure of the university sidetracking its authorities was repugnant to the existing convention and the autonomous status of the universities.

Denouncing the indiscriminate action by the members of the law enforcing agencies on the students, teachers and employees of the university on February 14 afternoon the Syndicate demanded constitution of a 3-member judicial enquiry commission with a Supreme Court Judge as its head to probe into the incidents ascertain the number and identity of the dead and the injured and find out the persons responsible for the incidents in view of the contradictory information about the incidents.

The meeting expressed profound sympathy for the bereaved families of the dead and the injured and demanded adequate compensation for them.

The meeting of Syndicate was adjourned after a few minutes of its beginning at 4-30 p.m. for facilitating its members to participate in the janaz of Hasan Hafizur Rahman at the Bangla Academy premises. The meeting was resumed at 5-45 p.m. again.

CSO: 4600/1003

NEW NATIONAL YOUTH ORGANIZATION FORMED

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 Apr 83 pp 1, 12

[Text] Natun Bangla Jubo Sanghati, a national youth organisation was formed on Sunday with Mr. A. T. M. Rafiqul Islam as Convener and Mr. Mian Shahid Hussain and Mr. Anisuzz man Khokan, former MP as Joint Conveners at a meeting of the representatives of youths from different districts and towns.

The meeting was held at 8/10, Sir Syed Road, Mohammadpur and was presided over by Mr. A. T. M. Rafiqul Islam. The meeting has also formed a 71-member Central Committee.

A Press release signed by the Convener and two Joint Conveners said that the organisation will not be the front of any political organisation and will support all good things. The Natun Bangla Jubo Sanghati has expressed its solidarity with the 18-point programmes of the present Government which the leaders termed a reformist programme to further the development of the country by overcoming all superstitions.

The meeting observed with regret that different sections and groups backed by their foreign masters were engaged in isolating the patriotic Armed Forces working class and the students from the people. The meeting pledged to resist these forces and called for engaging the people from all professions including the Armed Forces in welfare activities as inseparable part of the people.

Reviewing the present situation in the country the meeting noted that the political situation in the country was directed adversely and for that the political parties were responsible.

The meeting observed that in the past the political parties both in power and in Opposition directed their activities towards fulfilment of one objective and that was to fulfil their personal interest at the cost of national interest. The meeting further expressed deep concern over the continuous deterioration of social values.

The meeting held that due to the failures of the political parties there could not be any consensus on various national issues like administration, judiciary and economic policies of the country. In the absence of reforms

in these fields and lack of national concensus the vested interest plundered the nation at the behest of their foreign masters. Their activities also directed to destroy the well established institutions of the country like Dhaka University.

The meeting observed that there is no well organised mass institution in the country to face this challenge. They called for unity among all professionals for facing this challenge and to build a new Bangladesh.

The meeting felt that youth forces of the country could play a vital role in this direction and that's why a well organised youth forum was needed. The Natun Bangla Jubo Sanghati will be organized to fulfil the vacuum.

CSO: 4600/1000

BURMA REPORTED SEIZING BANGLADESH BOATS, FISHERMEN

Dhaka THE NFW NATION in English 4 Apr 83 p 1

[Text] Apr. 3: With the hijacking of one more fishing boat along with two fishermen, a total of 17 Bangladeshi fishing boats and 34 nationals were so far forcibly taken away to the Burmese territory in last three months.

According to reports reaching here from across the border the boats, five of them mechanised, have been dumped near Akyab port and the fishermen were put in different Burmese jails.

The latest swoop by the Burmese Navy was made on the second week of March near St. Martin island in retaliation of detaining a Burmese mechanised fishing boat by Bangladesh forces for illegal fishing in the Bangladesh waters. During the period Bangladesh border forces captured three such Burmese boats for similar violations.

The Bangladesh boats are owned by Bangladesh fishermen of the coastal area. Being pressed by local people Bangladesh authority tried to resolve the matter through bilateral talks. Burmese authority first refused but later agreed to the offer to discuss ways and means for exchanging boats and nationals of both the countries in a border meet on March 25.

According to the latest report the meet did not take place as the Burmese officials declined to participate on the day. The latest Burmese move created a stalemate in the matter and till today both the government could not decide how and when the exchange would take place.

Meanwhile, with the straining of relations between the two countries' Burma reportedly reinforced its Naikkangtong border post. The border forces are learnt to be harassing the Bangladeshi visitors who cross into the neighbouring country with a 12-hour visa as approved by border forces of both the countries.

CSO: 4600/1004

BANGLADESH

BRIEFS

MALI, ICELAND AMBASSADORS--Mr. Boubachar Toure has been appointed Ambassador of Mali to Bangladesh, it was officially announced in Dhaka on Wednesday, reports BSS. Prior to his appointment as Ambassador to Bangladesh he held the post of Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Mali. The Government of Iceland has appointed Mr Sigurdur Bjarnason as Ambassador to Bangladesh with residence in Reykjavik, it was officially announced in Dhaka on Wednesday, reports BSS. Mr Sigurdur Bjarnason served his country as Ambassador to Denmark, Turkey, China and Iceland. His last assignment was Iceland Ambassador to Great Britain.
[Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 8 Apr 83 p 3]

ENVOY TO CYPRUS--The Government has decided to concurrently accredit Mr. A. K. M. Nazrul Islam at present Ambassador of Bangladesh to Yugoslavia, as Bangladesh Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus, reports BSS. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 Apr 83 p 12]

CSO: 4600/1001

DELHI BEGINS PREPARATIONS FOR COMMONWEALTH PARLEY

Madras THE HINDU in English 18 Mar 83 p 9

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, March 17.

After the non-aligned summit conference India has started preparing for the next biennial Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Delhi at the end of November, when Presidents and Prime Ministers of 47 countries representing a quarter of the world's population will gather to review the global situation and discuss matters of mutual interest for stepping up their own cooperation.

The Queen of Britain, as head of the Commonwealth, will be paying a State visit to India coinciding with CHOGM to perform her ceremonial responsibility of formally inaugurating the conference, giving a banquet to the heads of Government and meeting them individually before leaving Delhi.

In his capacity as the chief organiser of CHOGM on the Indian side, Mr. K. Natwar Singh has already written to the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Mr. Shridath Ramphal, explaining the arrangements being made and inquiring whether anything further needed to be done for this conference. The Commonwealth Secretariat staff will reach Delhi well in time to provide the necessary assistance, but the main burden of organising CHOGM falls on India as host country.

Retreat of Goa: One of the interesting features of these Commonwealth conferences is that the Heads of Government spend a quiet week-end together at a resort, away from the hustle and bustle of the venue, to be able to get to know one another better by establishing new contacts or renewing old acquaintances. The so-called retreat this time will be in Goa where the seaside hotels are being requisitioned and beaches cordoned off to ensure utmost privacy for the Commonwealth heads and their wives.

The eight-day conference which starts on

Wednesday, November 23, will adjourn for the week-end on November 26 and 27, before concluding on November 30. The Queen will be in Delhi during the first half of the meeting until the Heads of Government leave for Goa on November 26 for their retreat.

Most of the Commonwealth countries from Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific regions are members of the non-aligned movement, while Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand constituting the white segment of this multiracial group are part of the Western alliance. This inherent contradiction has been got over by treating the Commonwealth as a valuable forum for inter-change of ideas and mutually beneficial cooperation than as a like-minded group of nations bound together by their historical associations.

There are Commonwealth countries not only in the non-aligned community and Organisation of African Unity (OAU) but also in the Organisation of American States (OAS) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), apart from the ASEAN at one end and the EEC at the other end of this complex spectrum.

Spirit of cooperation: Consequently, the member countries of the Commonwealth often find themselves cast in contradictory roles taking up different positions on international issues. An attempt has been made over the years to intensify Commonwealth cooperation in economic, cultural and sporting spheres without prejudice to their political commitments. There are numerous official and non-official bodies functioning at different levels and in different fields to sustain the spirit of cooperation that has made the Commonwealth a unique institution.

But, at the same time, the member-countries have to be realistic enough to take

note of the increasing frictions even while concentrating on the wide opportunities open for greater cooperation. The next Commonwealth conference will be taking place in Delhi not only against the background of the non-aligned summit but also in the wake of the special appeal made by it for the participation of Heads of Government from all over the world in the next U.N. General Assembly session in September-October to give a truly international dimension to the proposed North-South efforts for a more equitable dispensation.

A lot of preparatory work will have to be done behind the scenes to ensure that the differences within the Commonwealth over some of the fundamental issues raised at the Delhi summit do not assume the dimensions of basic conflicts of interest. So India is no less keen than Britain in steering clear of such controversies during the next Commonwealth conference.

Pakistan's admission: The Indian opposition to Pakistan's bid to get back to the Commonwealth has been a sore point with Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand which at one time went to the extent of suggesting that Islamabad should be invited to rejoin it. The proposal was stalled at the last conference in Melbourne in 1981 and a renewed attempt will be made during the Delhi meeting to persuade India to waive its objection.

And what will be the outcome of these moves will depend to a large extent on what happens during the next six months in the Indo-Pakistan dialogue on the two inter-related proposals for a comprehensive treaty of friendship and a simple no-war agreement. If the two countries are able to overcome this hurdle and open a new chapter in their bilateral relations, there should be no difficulty in reopening the Commonwealth doors to Pakistan.

C30: 4600/1897

LOK SABHA HAILS SUCCESS OF NONALIGNED MEETING

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 24 Mar 83 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, March 23 (PTI).

THE members of the Lok Sabha, cutting across party lines yesterday hailed the successful conclusion of the seventh non-aligned summit and expressed the view that the "flowering of the non-aligned summit at Delhi" has definitely heralded a new era in international relations.

The members hoped that the country would be able to discharge the responsibilities of chairing the movement in the next three years in the best traditions of "anti-imperialism and self-reliance of our national movement".

Moving the motion, Mr. Kamal-nath (Cong-I), who was a member of the Indian delegation at the summit, said the call in the non-aligned summit for a North-South dialogue and for South-South co-operation leading to a new international economic order was one of the positive requirements of more than two-thirds of mankind.

The motion, for which several opposition members have given amendments, read: "This house notes with satisfaction and pride that the seventh conference of heads of state or government of non-aligned countries held in New Delhi has concluded its deliberations successfully. The New Delhi summit has reinforced the unity and the international role of the non-aligned community.

This house requests the government of India to convey its thanks and appreciation to the heads of state and government and leaders of various delegations who, through their presence and positive contribution, ensured the success of the summit. It

also places on record its appreciation of the work of the Indian delegation and the leadership provided by the chairperson, Mrs. Indira Gandhi. "India has been given the responsibility of chairing the movement. This house believes that our country will be able to discharge this responsibility in the best traditions of anti-imperialism and self-reliance of our national movement.

"This house welcomes the declaration adopted by the summit and the 'New Delhi message', which has called for an end to the production and stockpiling of nuclear arms as also for more purposive efforts to launch a North-South dialogue, to enlarge South-South cooperation and to usher in a new international economic order, and believes that these have strengthened the hands of all those who stand for independence, peace, disarmament and development."

In his eloquent speech, Mr. Kamal-nath said that while reinforcing unity and the international role of the non-aligned community, the summit had brought about a very "conspicuous success" for Indians — the "acclamation" of the Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi, as a "major leader" of mankind and a world figure who could rise above localised contradictions and give a direction to humanity.

On the other hand, Prof. Samaddhan Chakraborty CPM said that the summit had ended successfully because of a collective effort. "This should not be utilised to glorify one person. It is a glory for all Indians", he said and cautioned that glorifying a single person might serve a 'short term' purpose but it would be wrong to do so.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CRITICISM OF INDIA REPORTED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 24 Mar 83 p 9

[Article by K. N. Malik]

[Text]

INDIA has the dubious distinction of being counted among 20 countries in the world where evidence of illegal political killings by government forces or officially sanctioned death squads was reported.

In a 131-page report released by the London-based Amnesty International today on the occasion of its world-wide campaign against political killings by governments, an entire chapter has been devoted to India.

The period covered is from mid-sixties to mid-82. The report says political killings sanctioned by governments have been reported in eight states in the country. The recent cases of such killings were reported from three southern states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

The report says three persons were killed in so-called encounters with the police in September 1981 in Bihar. Ten were killed in Andhra Pradesh in fake encounters during 1980 and 1982, most of them following torture. Thirteen were killed in Tamil Nadu during August and December, 1980. In all these cases, the persons killed were Naxalites. In Tamil Nadu, they were killed after bomb killing of three policemen by suspected Naxalites.

Though in most cases, the state governments said they were killed in police encounters or while escaping from police custody or sometimes even

denied, enough evidence was gathered by lawyers, human right groups and journalists. Human rights volunteers were at times beaten up by the authorities and journalists prevented from uncovering the incidents, the report said.

The report refers to the killing of Naxalites in West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh in the late 60's in an effort by the government to annihilate the left-wing extremists. Such incidents were reported from Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Orissa, Punjab, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.

The report referred to a statement in the Lok Sabha by the government admitting that 216 Naxalites had been killed in Andhra Pradesh in police firing since 1968. The government had taken the plea that the firing took place as a sequel to armed attacks by Naxalites against police. The government also admitted that similar encounters had taken place in Maharashtra, Tripura and Tamil Nadu.

Andhra Pradesh came in for severe criticism for invoking the 1948 Madras Suppression of Disturbances Act and declaring certain areas as disturbed where minor functionaries such as sub-inspector of police or a magistrate could shoot a person or detainees could be held for long without producing before the courts. Some people were caught in areas which were not declared disturbed or taken to disturbed areas for summary punishment.

Amnesty International said it faced difficulty in getting information from most countries. In India, the Centre took the stand that law and order was a state subject, so it had no information about such incidents or no jurisdiction to take action against erring policemen or magistrates.

According to the report, only in rare cases was a judicial inquiry instituted by a state government to investigate such incidents, as in Andhra Pradesh in 1977 when the Bhargava commission was appointed. The state government did not co-operate with this commission and the commission's term expired without submission of any report. The commission, in fact, was instituted after a former judge of the Bombay High Court and president of the Bar Association of the Supreme Court had disclosed evidence of such killings in fake encounters.

Amnesty International was of the opinion that the Central government should set up a machinery to investigate and take follow-up action in cases of such killings. It also said lawyers, human rights groups and journalists must step up their investigations and politicians must press for action against those responsible for such human rights violations. It also said acts such as Andhra Pradesh Suppression of Disturbances Act and Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958, should be scrapped.

CSO: 4600/1913

INDIA, SRI LANKA PURSUE SETTLEMENT ON STATELESS

Madras THE HINDU in English 14 Mar 83 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] There were no talks as such on the question of stateless citizens of Indian origin in Sri Lanka during the visit of the Sri Lanka President, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, for the non-aligned summit conference, since there was no time for such bilateral discussions with any of the visiting heads of Government.

But the issue is being pursued vigorously between the two Governments to resolve it and remove a major irritant in Indo-Sri Lanka relations.

An encouraging development in this context is the readiness of the Sri Lanka Government to absorb another 100,000 to 150,000 persons by granting them civic rights which would make them citizens of the island for all practical purposes. It will bring down the ratio of resettlement and repatriation to 1:1 from the 4:7 formula provided for under the Shastri-Sirimavo agreement.

The agreement signed in 1964 by the then Prime Ministers of India and Sri Lanka, Lal Bahadur Shastri and Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, provided for repatriation to India of 525,000 persons and grant of Sri Lanka citizenship to 300,000 out of an estimated total of under one million.

When Mrs. Indira Gandhi and Mrs. Bandaranaike met in 1974 to review the agreement, they decided to split equally the remaining 150,000, which meant that India would take 600,000 and Sri Lanka 375,000 along with the natural increase that had taken place.

No forcible repatriation: The two important principles, that were to be taken into account in the implementation of the two agreements were that there would be no forcible repatriation and that the people should be given the option to indicate their preference. But there was considerable delay in commencing the implementation of the agreement because it involved the problem of identification of these people, then their categorisation, the procedures for repatriation, disposal of their assets and so on.

The latest figures available till November, 1982, indicate that nearly 50 per cent of the 600,000 have been repatriated to India while 100,000 have been given Indian citizenship and allowed to stay on in Sri Lanka on extended residence permits to wind up their affairs and leave in due course. About 175,000 persons have been given Sri Lanka citizenship, and the applications of 100,000 are pending for various reasons.

Fresh look: The Indian view has been that the 15-year time-frame of the 1964 agreement expired in 1979 and the whole problem should be examined *de novo* to find a solution. But Sri Lanka has been maintaining that the time-frame agreed upon was not an integral part of the agreement, but only a framework for implementation. Its contention is that the agreement cannot be unilaterally invalidated, while India is not prepared to agree to the implementation in an open-ended manner without a prescribed time limit.

The leader of the Ceylon Workers Congress, Mr. S. Thondaman, who left the Tamil United Liberation Front to join President Jayewardene's Cabinet, is working for a political settlement of the problem by securing civic rights for the remaining 100,000 to 150,000 stateless persons of Indian origin, besides expediting the clearance of the 100,000 applications for full citizenship rights.

The issue will be taken to the Sri Lanka Cabinet for formal approval after arriving at an understanding with the Government of India on the subject, when the External Affairs Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, goes to Colombo in the next month or two on his much postponed visit.

Meanwhile, the Government of India has approached Sri Lanka not to let the self-styled leader of "Khalistan", Mr. Jaglit Singh Chauhan enter the island. The Sri Lanka Government has promised to do the needful while reminding India gently that it should bear in mind its reciprocal obligation not to let the Tamil militants engaged in acts of violence seek sanctuary on its territory for evading arrest.

CSO: 4600/185

G. K. REDDY ON SIGNING OF INDO-PAKISTAN PACT

Madras THE HINDU in English 11 Mar 83 p 1

Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI March 10.

The agreement to set up a joint commission for economic, scientific and technical cooperation, along with a number of sub-commissions for dealing with specific issues, was signed today by the Foreign Ministers of India and Pakistan, Mr P V Narasimha Rao and Sahibzada Yaqub Ali Khan.

The Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, and the President of Pakistan, Gen Zia ul Haq, who were present at the signing ceremony, expressed the hope that the joint commission would pave the way for closer bilateral relations between the two countries.

The two Heads of Government met for about 20 minutes before the agreement was signed in one of the committee rooms of Vigyan Bhawan, the venue of the non-aligned summit conference. The signing ceremony took place in a relaxed atmosphere with both Mrs Gandhi and Gen Zia in a jovial mood exchanging pleasantries to set the right tone for it.

The Prime Minister remarked that the agreement would help to reopen one by one the Indo-Pakistani doors that remained closed for whatever reason. The Pakistan President said the decision to establish the joint commission reflected the wishes of the two countries for better relations.

The agreement is initially for a period of five years, but it can be renewed for similar periods if both sides want to continue the joint commission. The first meeting of the commission is expected to be held in Islamabad in June to settle the modalities for the functioning of the sub-commissions and the procedures for the annual meetings of the full commission under the co-chairmanship of the two Foreign Ministers to review the progress of their work and approve the decisions taken by them.

At today's meeting between Mrs Gandhi and Gen Zia there was no time for any substantive talk on other bilateral matters like the two inter-related proposals for a treaty of friendship

and a no-war pact. The threads of the earlier discussions held in Delhi will be picked up by the Foreign Secretaries, Mr. M. K. Rasgotra and Mr Niaz Naik, who are expected to meet in Islamabad either at the end of this month or early next month.

The two Foreign Secretaries will have a further opportunity to keep up their contacts when they go to Dhaka next month for the senior officials meeting of the South Asia seven—India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives—to prepare for a ministerial level meeting later this year on regional cooperation. If meanwhile, Mr Narasimha Rao pays a visit to Islamabad for the first meeting of the joint commission, he will also be able to do some spadework for the resumption of the dialogue on the proposals for friendship treaty and no-war pact.

One of the points made by both Mrs Gandhi and Gen Zia today at the signing ceremony was the need for improvement of postal services and telecommunications between India and Pakistan. Their shared desire for better facilities reflected the absurdity of the present arrangement for routing a telegram from Amritsar to Lahore via London.

Later, at an hour-long chat with some Indian journalists, Gen Zia conceded that the present travel restrictions between the two countries should be further relaxed to make it possible for the people on either side to pay short visits. He repeatedly stressed the desire of the two countries for better relations, while pointing out that the right climate should be created for major initiatives from both sides.

During his meeting with Mrs Gandhi, Gen Zia praised India's role in the non-aligned movement and wished her all success during her term as chairmen. And Mrs Gandhi in turn observed that the real success of the movement should be judged not on the basis of what happened at the summit conference, but how the community was able to deal with various issues that had extricated from entrenched positions.

RECORD FOREIGN COLLABORATION AGREEMENTS IN 1982

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 24 Mar 83 p 7

[Text]

Foreign collaboration approvals in 1982 totalled 593, the highest for any year so far and the total foreign equity investment was of the order of Rs 628 million also a record as compared to Rs 588 million for nine years 1973 to 1981 taken together, reports PTI.

USA and West Germany were on top with 110 new collaborations each followed by the United Kingdom with 107, Japan, France, Italy, Switzerland, Sweden, Austria, Canada and the Netherlands with which collaboration agreements were approved during 1982.

Of the Rs 628 million by way of equity participation, non-resident Indian investment accounted for Rs 111 million and Gulf

countries Rs 37 million, Japan accounted for Rs 251 million of investment in Maruti Limited (passenger cars and light vehicles) and USA Rs 50 million.

The number of foreign collaborations rose from 389 in 1981 to 593 in 1982, the previous highest figure being 526 in 1980.

From Rs 108 million in 1981, financial participation rose to Rs 628 million in 1982. The record approvals of foreign equity investment and in technical collaborations is taken to reflect a market improvement in the investment climate in the country.

USA, UK and West Germany are the three countries with the largest number of approvals totalling 368, 359 and 339 respectively for the four year period

1979 to 1982.

According to Indian Investment Centre (IIC), investment by non-resident Indians is in response to incentives offered by the Government of India. The spurt in investment from developed countries like USA, Germany and Japan is attributed to liberalisation of policy under which foreign investment need not be accompanied by technology.

Other countries, besides USA, which increased equity investment in 1982 were Italy Rs 40 million, France Rs 26 million, Yugoslavia Rs 24 million and UK Rs 16.5 million. In the case of West Germany, while technical collaborations were the highest, foreign equity investment declined from Rs 54.2 million in 1981 to Rs 35.3 million in 1982.

CSO: 4600/1915

ZAIN SINGH RECEIVING CREDENTIALS FROM KAMPUCHEAN ENVOY

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 24 Mar 83 p 9

[Text]

President Zail Singh declared in New Delhi on Wednesday that India would offer whatever humble assistance possible to Kampuchea in that country's present task of national reconstruction.

Speaking at a function to mark the presentation of credentials of Kampuchean Ambassador Theam Chuny at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, the President expressed the hope that Kampuchea would be able to achieve conditions of peace, stability and prosperity.

He said India had 'followed with anxiety the various difficulties that Kampuchea has been going through in recent years'.

Earlier, while presenting his credentials, Mr Chuny conveyed to Mr Zail Singh the 'warmest greetings and best wishes' from Mr Heng Samrin, president of the State Council of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. He also extended the Kampuchean Government's and people's 'whole-hearted gratitude' to the Government and people of India — and in particular to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi — for the

support and help they had rendered in the 'just struggle to defend and rebuild our mother land of Angkor'.

'The timely recognition accorded by the Government of India under Madame Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to the People's Republic of Kampuchea and the continuing support which my country and people have been receiving from the Government and people of India have been a major factor in strengthening national independence and peace in our region,' he underlined.

He pointed out that both India and Kampuchea had sacrificed their national positions 'for the larger interests of the movement' since the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea enjoyed all qualifications for representing the country in the Non-Aligned forum.

The 43-year-old ambassador said his constant endeavour in India would be to further strengthen the continued, long-lasting and traditional friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

ANALYST ON PLANS, STAND FOR SCHAFER VISIT

Madras THE HINDU in English 22 Mar 83 p 9

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, March 21. The U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia, Mr. Howard Schaffer, who is arriving later this week on a three-day visit, has asked to see several senior officials of the Government associated with the non-aligned summit, presumably to get an authoritative exposition of how India proposes to deal with various issues spelt out in the political and economic declarations during its three-year tenure as chairman of the movement.

Those he would like to meet include the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Dr. P. C. Alexander, the Foreign Secretary, Mr. M. K. Rasgotra, the Secretary in-charge of Economic Relations, Mr. Romesh Bhandari, the Secretary (East) dealing with China and South-East Asia, Mr. K. S. Bajpai, and the Secretary-General of the summit, Mr. K. Natwar Singh, in addition to some others in the Government.

But it is not yet clear how many of them are going to engage in serious talks on the summit discussions, besides exchanging views on Indo-U.S. bilateral problems with him. Though they will have no hesitation in voicing the non-aligned community's aspirations and articulating India's own approach to some of the major themes contained in the summit declarations, the Government of India as such is not yet ready to pursue these objectives vigorously with a firm plan of action in close concert with other prominent non-aligned nations.

The copies of the New Delhi message and the covering letters from the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, that are being sent to the heads of Government of various non-aligned or aligned powers are intended to be only opening gambits at this stage to set the tone for a more substantive dialogue later on with them. The more immediate objective is to create a favourable climate of opinion both in the U.S. and the Soviet Union for engaging in serious discussions in a constructive spirit.

India cautious: As chairman of the non-aligned movement, India is also displaying equal caution in initiating any new steps for tackling issues like the Iran-Iraq conflict. The intention is to get together at a psychological opportune moment, another non-aligned peace group to explore the possibilities of a settlement. The necessary diplomatic moves are being made behind the scenes to dissuade both Iran and Iraq from resuming the fighting so that the present unofficial ceasefire in the shape of a stalemate could continue on the battlefronts, until a fresh peace effort could be made by the non-aligned nations.

The main focus of the non-aligned community's activities during the next year or two will be aimed at bringing both Washington and Moscow round to the negotiating table to tackle some of the global problems of great concern to it. If one or the other superpower refuses to participate in such North-South dialogue, all the efforts of the non-aligned community to work step by step towards global negotiations will end up in a failure.

The Indian officials who will be meeting Mr. Schaffer will try to dispel the U.S. misgivings about the so-called pro-Moscow tilt in the political declaration. The Indian strategy is to lay the primary stress on the New Delhi message and the accompanying economic action programme which are both lofty and practical in their content and application, free from polemics and overstatements.

At the bilateral level, there is no indication yet from Washington that the Secretary of State, Mr. George Shultz, would be paying the long overdue visit to Delhi after his trip to South East Asia in July for talks with ASEAN on regional problems. A more immediate issue that the Government of India would like to discuss with Mr. Schaffer is the question of nuclear spares for the Tarapur plant which is stated to be still under 'review' in Washington.

COMMENTS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN INDO-PRC RELATIONS

PRC 'Keen on More Visits'

Madras THE HINDU in English 16 Mar 83 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] After the next round of official level talks on the border question, which is expected to take place in July or August following the bi-yearly pattern, the External Affairs Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, might pay a brief trip to China later this year to return the visit of the former Chinese Foreign Minister, Mr. Huang Hua, who came to Delhi in 1981 to begin the dialogue for improvement of relations.

Though Mr. Huang Hua's visit was itself in the nature of a reciprocal gesture after the former External Affairs Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, took the initiative in 1979 in going to Beijing to break the ice, the actual decision to commence the current dialogue was taken only during the discussion with the Chinese leader in Delhi in 1981 with an understanding that a border settlement was a sine qua non for any Sino-Indian normalisation.

The intention is to keep the exchange of these courtesy visits separate from the official talks on the border question which are still in a preliminary stage, without elevating the dialogue to a political level prematurely before the two Governments are ready to settle the problem. So due care will be taken to dispel the impression that, in toying with the idea of going to Beijing later this year to return Mr. Huang Hua's visit. Mr. Narasimha Rao is in any way seeking to sound informally the present Chinese Foreign Minister, Mr. Wu Xueqian, on the border question.

Spade work: The Chinese themselves do not want to engage in any serious discussions on the border issue at a political level until the necessary spade work has been done through official talks on the subject, although they would very much like to step up the tempo of exchange of visits to include senior personalities of the two Governments. The fact that no progress has been made during the last three rounds of official-level talks on the border issue has not made any difference to the Chinese desire to see Mr. Narasimha Rao pay his long overdue return visit if only to help sustain the climate of improving relations.

Appreciation: The warm appreciation with which the Chinese Premier, Mr. Zhao Ziyang, has spoken about the outcome of the nonaligned summit, at the dinner he hosted on Saturday in honour of the Nigerian Vice-President, Mr. Alex Ekwueme, who went to Beijing straight from Delhi, has helped to dispel some of the earlier misgivings about the campaign China sought to mount at this conference on the Kampuchean question. It is widely known that China did its best to mobilise support for the ASEAN bid to rake up the issue in a big way at the Delhi summit, but it has evidently taken the failure in its stride.

Though a majority of non-aligned countries has had voted in the U.N. General Assembly for letting the coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDR) continue to represent it, many of them were clearly not in favour of filling the vacant seat at the non-aligned summit with Prince Norodom Sihanouk, since they did not want to see a sharp division in the movement over this question. The way these countries went along with the view that the best thing to do was to leave the seat vacant for the present came as a surprise to both ASEAN and China, not to speak of the western powers including the U.S.

But the issue itself has been left open in the sense that the supporters of CGDR are free to pursue the matter in the coordination bureau to mount pressure for getting the decision reversed before the next summit conference.

Low profile: Though Mr. Zhao Ziyang himself visited a dozen African countries before the Delhi summit and did what he could to step up the campaign for getting the Havana decision reversed, the Chinese adopted a low profile during the summit without giving the appearance of any direct involvement in the raging controversy initiated by ASEAN with Singapore leading the crusade.

An irritant: But nevertheless Kampuchea remains a major irritant in Sino-Indian relations. The Huang Hua visit which was due to take place in September-October, 1980, was abruptly postponed till June, 1981, as an expression of China's displeasure over the Indian recognition of the Heng Samrin regime.

And now China would like to see the process of normalisation carried to a higher level, despite the absence of any progress in the border talks, since it has realised that it would be counter-productive to continue to treat the Kampuchean issue as an acid test of India's real attitude towards it.

New PRC Efforts

Madras THE HINDU in English 23 Mar 83 p 9

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] NEW DELHI, March 22. As seen by Indian experts, China is now engaged in a major diplomatic drive to strive for a step-by-step improvement of relations with the Soviet Union, adopt a more balanced approach towards the United States and make

a renewed bid to open up a new dialogue with Vietnam to enhance its own international importance

The basic purpose of this three-pronged effort is to bring about a disengagement on the Sino-Soviet borders, keep the Taiwan issue

conflict in the South China Sea, and some of these had been settled at the end of the first round of talks, failing in the last feasibility of the conduct of China's foreign policies.

Distinct positive trend: According to reports from Moscow, the just concluded second round of Sino-Soviet talks has made no tangible progress, but the discussions are to be continued at the third round in Beijing a few months later to keep the dialogue going in the hope that, sooner or later, it is bound to lead to better understanding despite the continuing differences. The mere fact that nothing concrete has been achieved during the first two rounds is not seen as a setback since there is a distinct trend towards improvement of relations, however agonisingly slow it might appear at present.

Ties with U.S. and USSR: Another important point that is being made by Indian experts on China is that there is no real link between Beijing's desire for better relations with Moscow and its growing disenchantment with Washington. The correlation that existed at one time between these two aspects of China's policies towards the Soviet Union and the U.S. is no longer a determining factor in its present dealings with them.

The Chinese have realised according to these experts that it is counter-productive to continue the military confrontation with the Soviet Union, keeping more than a million soldiers tied down along a 5,000-kilometre front, with no guarantee at all that in the event of a war the Soviet troops would not be able to overrun through the Mongolian loop large parts of its territory causing extensive damage. There is no guarantee that the U.S. would intervene on China's side with all the attendant risks of a global war with the Soviet Union.

Seeking to eliminate risk of war: In striving for an improvement of relations with Moscow, China is primarily seeking to eliminate the threat of a war with the Soviet Union through miscalculation. At the same time, it is also trying to disengage itself from this confrontation to exercise greater flexibility in dealing with the U.S. and enhancing its leverage in exerting greater pressures on Washington not to arm and support Taiwan beyond the limits of its tolerance.

India's keen interest: As a neighbour of China with an unresolved border dispute, India is vitally interested in the outcome of Beijing's bid to establish a more equitable relationship with Moscow and Washington. It is no less interested in China's new overtures to Vietnam to open up a dialogue for settling the Kampuchean problem. It is now known that some secret exchanges had taken place between China, Malaysia and Indonesia on the eve of the non-aligned summit to get the message across to the Vietnamese Prime Minister, Mr Pham Van Dong, and the Foreign Minister, Mr Co Thach during their stay in Delhi that Beijing would not dispute the right of the Kampuchean people to elect even a non-communist government after the withdrawal of the Vietnamese forces.

Proposal on Kampuchea: The five-point Chinese proposal first conveyed to Hanoi through Moscow and later renewed through Malaysia and Indonesia during private conversations in Delhi envisaged the resumption of a Sino-Vietnamese dialogue after an agreed time-table had been set for the troops withdrawal and the first batch of troops had pulled out, to discuss not only a settlement of the Kampuchean issue but also their own border problem. But the Vietnamese insistence on linking its offer of a phased withdrawal in annual instalments subject to China's good conduct followed by a plea for regional talks to settle the Kampuchean issue was equally unacceptable to China and ASEAN.

But in their talks with the other non-aligned leaders during the Delhi summit, Mr Pham Van Dong and Mr Co Thach pointed out that in the first two rounds of the Sino-Vietnamese talks held in Beijing and Hanoi after the Chinese attack in February 1979, the two sides dealt only with their border dispute. It was only at the third round in September 1980, that the Chinese started insisting on resolving the Kampuchean problem first before proceeding further with the talks for a border settlement.

Sino-Indian border question: As Chairman of the non-aligned movement, India has made known to the countries concerned that it is quite anxious that the efforts of the UN Secretary General to establish direct contact between Pakistan and Afghanistan to discuss the Afghan question, and the Sino-Vietnamese moves under way for similar talks on Kampuchea should be supported, if only to create the right climate for a negotiated settlement for restoring the non-aligned character of both these States.

If China is able to establish a normal relationship with Moscow and Hanoi and at the same time develop a mutually beneficial equation with Washington, the very logic of these events would encourage Beijing to adopt a more reasonable approach to the Sino-Indian border problem. And such a development would go a long way in strengthening the third world in its dealings with big powers and its endeavours for a better international economic dispensation.

PRC Stand on Dalai Lama Trip

Madras THE HINDU in English 17 Mar 83 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, March 26.

The Chinese have reacted quite sharply to the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh — his first trip to the area after he left Tibet in 1959 — by reasserting their claim to 90,000 square kilometres of Indian territory south of the McMahon Line.

The Dalai Lama, who fled to India 24 years ago in the wake of Chinese repression, is visiting Arunachal Pradesh, the area through which he entered this country, for the first time since 1959 to participate in a Buddhist initiation ceremony called Kalachakra (wheel of life) spread over a fortnight.

But he will be staying in Arunachal Pradesh for about five weeks visiting the four Tibetan encampments in the area and also paying a trip to Tawang, the monastery town close to the Tibetan border along the McMahon Line. As this area falls within the defence perimeter, the Government of India was approached for permission which was granted in the normal course.

The Chinese have evidently taken umbrage over the Indian decision permitting the Dalai Lama to visit an area which they continue to regard as disputed territory, although Beijing has offered to give up this claim as part of their package offer to settle the border dispute on the basis of a matchingcession of Aksai Chin to them. It is in this context that a Chinese Government spokesman stated in Beijing today: 'The

90,000 square kilometres of land to the south of the illegal McMahon Line has always been part of Chinese territory.'

No basis for claim: When its attention was drawn to this Chinese statement, the Government of India confined itself to the remark that there was no basis at all for the Chinese claim. It preferred not to say anything further on the subject, since China has been reasserting this claim from time to time only for purposes of record, presumably as a bargaining counter to extract concessions from India in the Ladakh region.

The Chinese created a rumpus over the participation of a troupe from Arunachal Pradesh in the cultural pageant at the closing ceremony of the Asian Games in November last. The Government of India reacted strongly on that occasion by cancelling the visit of an official delegation to the Kumbh Mela function in Beijing, although the Indian Ambassador to China attended it.

The Indian reaction this time has been muted since the Government felt that it was not necessary to join issue with the Chinese every time they said something about their claim to Arunachal Pradesh for whatever reason. And interestingly enough, Beijing has not so far bothered to protest against the Indian decision permitting the Dalai Lama to visit this area since the Chinese have been making repeated overtures to him to return to Tibet with promises of political berisation.

PRC Goodwill Team

Madras THE HINDU in English 30 Mar 83 p 9

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, March 29.

The Chinese have sent on a two-week goodwill visit to India, in response to an invitation extended by the India-China Society, a high power delegation led by 83-year-old Chu Tunan, one of the Vice-Chairmen of the Standing Committee of the Chinese People's Congress, who has the status of a Cabinet Minister.

The 11-member delegation will be calling on the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, during its stay in Delhi, before going to Agra, Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Bombay, Madras and Calcutta.

The visit has acquired special significance because the host organisation, the India-China Society, was set up two years ago by some Congress(I) members of Parliament, along with the Indo Soviet Congress, with the active encouragement of Mrs. Gandhi to end the monopoly of the two Communist Parties and their associates controlling such friendship societies and other front organisations.

Return visit: The Chinese took the initiative in inviting last year an Indian delegation led by Mr. B. N. Pande, president of the India-China Society, which was received by the Chinese Premier, Mr. Zhao Ziang. Now a reciprocal invitation has been extended for a return visit by a Chinese delegation and Mrs. Gandhi has agreed to meet it.

Apart from Mr. Chu Tunan who is also a Vice Chairman of the Chinese Cultural Commission, the delegation includes three members of the National People's Congress (Chinese Parliament) and four others representing the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. The leaders of some of the non-communist parties in Parliament who are associated with the India-China Society will be meeting the members of the delegation at various functions organised in its honour in Delhi.

Though no progress has been made over the border question, the two countries continue to keep up the tempo of exchange of visits by delegations at various levels in different spheres. The acerbic reiteration by China from time to time of its claims to 90,000 square kilometres of Indian territory south of the McMahon Line has not made any difference to the growing contacts between the two countries both in the political and non-political fields for better relations.

The Government of India, which has got used to China's diplomatic style over the last 25 years, does not attach undue importance to the periodic reiteration of its territorial claims in quite dogmatic and at times even strident terms. No serious notice is taken of such statements unless they are followed by some concrete steps to sustain the claims.

The friendly atmosphere of the Chinese delegation's goodwill visit has not, therefore, been marred in any way by Beijing's reassertion of its territorial claims on Arunachal Pradesh, which has been rebutted only for record purposes. It would be interesting to see what Mrs. Gandhi might say about the border problem during her meeting with Mr. Chu Tunan and his colleagues, if the subject is brought up in one form or the other during the discussion.

CSO: 4600/1889

DEVELOPMENTS OF INDO-NEPALESE RELATIONS REPORTED

King Birendra 'Unhappy'

Madras THE HINDU in English 19 Mar 83 p 9

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, March 18.

One of the ironies of the Delhi summit of the non-aligned nations has been the dissatisfaction shown by Nepal that its King had not received from the host country the extra special attention he was entitled to as the ruler of a neighbouring State.

Consequently, King Birendra left Delhi after the conclusion of the summit without meeting the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, or even accepting her invitation to one of the luncheons she was giving to groups of the visiting Heads of State and Government.

The King was reportedly unhappy that the group in which he was included for the luncheon was not important enough for his acceptance of the invitation, while the three alternative timings suggested for a private meeting with Mrs. Gandhi were not communicated well in advance in keeping with his dignity as head of a kingdom.

Though no affront was intended in either case, the King left Delhi with the feeling that he was not given the importance due to him. But the other dignitaries who attended the summit did not feel so sensitive when placed in a similar situation, since they realised how hard-pressed Mrs. Gandhi was for time during the very busy week when the sessions went on till the early hours of the morning on most days till the conclusion of the conference.

The latest Indo-Nepalese talks on trade and transit now taking place in Delhi are being held against the background of this unfortunate development. The inter-governmental committee, headed by the Commerce Secretaries of India and Nepal, Mr. Abid Hussain and Mr. Damodar Prasad Gautam, is meeting to review the implementation of the Indo-Nepalese trade

and transit treaty and the agreement on cooperation to control unauthorised trade, a euphemism for preventing smuggling by unscrupulous traders operating from either side.

A unique feature of the traditional Indo-Nepalese relationship has been that, apart from the unrestricted right of entry and employment opportunities open to Nepalese citizens in this country, India continues to extend on a reciprocal basis a duty free and quota free access to Nepal's primary products. It also grants, on a similar basis, duty free and quota free access to manufactured goods from Nepal, if at least 80 per cent of the value of such item is of local origin.

Trade imbalance: One of the long-standing demands of Nepal was for separate treaties on trade and transit which was conceded in 1978 by the Janata Government. Though the trade between the two countries has increased by 50 per cent in the last year, a certain degree of imbalance has developed with Indian exports increasing to Rs. 88 crores and imports from Nepal still at the level of only Rs. 30 crores. An effort is, therefore, being made to balance the trade by increasing the number of commodities and including raw jute in it.

The talks are being held at this time because the five-year trade treaty and the accompanying agreement on prevention of smuggling are due to expire next week, while the seven-year transit accord will be valid for two more years till March, 1985. The extension or re-validation of the trade treaty is posing no problems, but the Indian attempt to plug the loopholes in the existing arrangements for preventing smuggling is not meeting with Nepal's full cooperation.

The Nepalese Government is supposed to give India lists of consumer items like electro-

in; watches, synthetic fabrics and such other goods that are imported into Nepal far in excess of its genuine requirements and subsequently smuggled into India in violation of Indian laws and loss of large sums of customs revenue.

The Government of India is now insisting on fool proof procedures for obtaining the fullest possible details of Nepalese imports from third countries for taking suitable steps to prevent their smuggling into this country.

Nepal wants more concessions: The transit treaty, now under review, is also posing some problems. The Nepalese want to obtain some further concessions, over and above the ad hoc arrangements during the last meeting of the inter governmental committee in May, 1982, in the shape of additional transit points, besides provision of more wagons and elimination of delays in transhipment. In addition to the bonded warehouse already provided at Haldia at such distance from the docks, Nepal is asking for a waterfront warehouse.

It is also pressing for two extra transit points at Phulbani in North Bengal and Benapole near Calcutta besides the existing one at Radhikapur in North Bengal all of which are no doubt subject to Indian customs inspection in accordance with the relevant international conventions. But as a landlocked country and a neighbouring state with very close historical and cultural relations, Nepal feels that India should show some special consideration over and above what it is entitled to in the normal course.

It is in this context that King Birendra's grievance that he had not received the extra attention due to him during the non-aligned summit has come to acquire some unfortunate political significance. But India is doing its best to make all reasonable concessions to Nepal to meet its genuine trade and transit requirements as part of a wider effort to reassure the King that he continues to be held in high esteem.

Trade Treaty Extended

Madras THE HINDU In English 22 Mar 83 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI March 21

Besides agreeing on a number of steps to facilitate speedy movement of transit cargo from Nepal through India, the Indo-Nepalese Inter-Governmental Committee, at its meeting here, has decided to extend for another five years the treaty on trade and the agreement on cooperation on checking unauthorised trade, due to expire this month.

The Union Commerce Secretary, Mr. Abid Hussain, and Nepal's Commerce Secretary, Mr. D. P. Gautam, who led their respective delegations to the meeting of the Committee told pressmen the deliberations had been fruitful and would further strengthen the commercial relations.

They said that the decision to extend the treaty showed that they had been useful in boosting trade between the two countries. In 1981-82, exports from Nepal into India had increased to Rs. 52 crores from Rs. 36 crores in the previous year and exports from India to Nepal from Rs. 63.42 crores to Rs. 85.96 crores.

10 more items in duty-free list: Mr. Abid Hussain said that 10 more items had now been added to the list of 25 goods which could be imported into India from Nepal without attracting basic duty. It had also been agreed that 30,000 tonnes of raw jute would be allowed to be imported from Nepal through private trade.

As regards unauthorised trade, it was noted that Nepal had strengthened vigil to prevent unauthorised trade. But it was agreed that there should be a joint biannual review to monitor the situation and strengthen the prevent-

tive steps. The Indian side felt there was need for greater vigil.

In regard to facilities for transit of Nepalese cargo through Calcutta port, it was noted that the existing treaty would be valid for another two years. At one stage, it was proposed to have a fresh treaty entered into now for five years to be coterminous with the treaty on trade and the cooperation agreement on unauthorised trade. But this proposal was given up. The meeting decided on a series of measures to facilitate speedier movement of transit cargo.

Insurance for transit cargo: Insurance premium on Nepalese transit cargo, which had already been reduced, would be further reduced and provision had been made to widen its scope by including Nepalese insurance companies. A joint study would be made to identify delays in clearance of transit cargo, if any, and suggest remedial measures. Joint efforts would be made to reduce arrears of transit documents and customs dues.

Railway transit and transhipment points would be increased to include Gonda and Katihar to facilitate speedy movement of transit cargo to the western and eastern regions of Nepal.

Provision of free time of three days at Narayanpur Anant would be continued up to Sept. 30, 1983. In the meantime, a joint team would meet within a month and lay down a time-bound programme for completion of the railway siding and warehouses at Narayanpur Anant. The Raxaul railway line would be extended to Birganj in the Nepalese territory to facilitate direct delivery of transit cargo.

ANALYST ON VISITS OF NETHERLANDS ECONOMIC TEAMS

Madras THE HINDU in English 19 Mar 83 p 9

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI March 18

Two high-level economic delegations from the Netherlands are arriving tomorrow for wide-ranging talks with the Government of India and chambers of commerce on intensifying Indo-Dutch trade and industrial cooperation.

The Indo-Netherlands joint committee, set up under the economic and technical cooperation agreement signed last year, will discuss at governmental level the opportunities open for increased bilateral cooperation.

The Indo-Netherlands business council is a non-official body established last year by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Netherlands Central Board for Foreign Economic Relations.

The Dutch delegation includes senior representatives of leading industrial firms engaged in ship-building and dredging, consultancy and contracting in highly specialised fields of engineering, and manufacture of synthetic fibers, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, electronics, telecommunication, transport systems like conveyor belts and pipelines, and hydrographic and irrigation systems, besides banking, financing and insurance.

The two delegations meeting their Indian counterparts separately will conduct the discussions at official and non-official levels, before considering their conclusions together for finalising the cooperation agreements. The Ministries of Agriculture, Commerce, External Affairs, Finance, Industry, Irrigation and Shipping and Transport will be involved, in one way or the other, in these discussions.

The Indian idea is to evolve, in its discussions with individual Western countries on bilateral trade and technical cooperation, a broad pattern of economic relationship that would fit its concept of a multilateral framework for a mutually beneficial system of inter-dependence between developed and developing nations. As chairman of the non-aligned movement, India has to utilise every available opportunity to live upto the expectations of other member-States.

And as it so happens, the talks with the two visiting Netherlands delegations will be the first in this series of using beneficial bilateralism as a stepping stone for giving a wider multilateral dimension to the concept of such cooperation.

CSO: 4600/1909

INDIAN REPORT ON RACISM DISCUSSED IN UN PANEL

New Delhi THE PATRIOT in English 20 Mar 83 p 7

[Text]

UNITED NATIONS, March 19
(UPI).

The Indian report on ending racial discrimination at home went down generally well in a United Nations panel, but for some prickly mentions of the Assam tragedy and 'untouchability'.

The report presented to the UN committee on elimination of racial discrimination had been prepared before the Assam killings occurred and was of a routine nature.

But when some experts touched on Assam, an Indian diplomat told the committee that Assam violence had occurred when certain parties tried to prevent the holding of a legally required election.

Counsellor Rajendra Rathore said his Government was fully aware of the situation and was taking measures to rehabilitate those hit by the incidents.

References to Assam were made by former Pakistan Foreign Minister Agha Shahi and an Egyptian expert as the 18-member committee resumed considering the Indian report on Friday.

All member experts, including Mr Shahi, are elected and serve in their personal capacities. The member from India is Mrs Shanti

Sadiq Ali, wife of a former Maharashtra Governor.

Speaking on the subject of conflicts among ethnic groups, Mr Shahi stressed need for effective steps to protect one group from other hostile groups.

He said courts were ideal for righting individual wrongs, but when ethnic groups were pitted against one another, recourse to courts was not always possible.

He said in the recent Assam violence, for example, it was difficult to pinpoint who the culprits were.

He said the problem caused anguish when the State did not have the resources to stop the carnage which continued for three weeks in Assam.

Egypt's Abdel Moneim Ghoneim also touched on Assam and spoke of the authorities' failure to implement the convention that asks States to take effective steps against racial discrimination.

Mr Shahi also requested a breakdown of the representation of various disadvantaged groups in the public service so that the panel could 'appreciate' the progress towards ending discrimination.

Earlier, a French expert said the Indian report could well serve as a prototype, and a So-

viet expert commended the Indian experience in establishing regional autonomy on language basis.

He also suggested that some African States might be able to benefit from the Indian experience.

Bulgarian expert Matey Karasimov, Upper Volta expert Jean-Marie Aplou and Ecuadorian Luis Rodriguez spoke appreciatively of various aspects of the Indian report.

Mr Andre Dehezelles of France said he had confidence in the report's claim that the constitution adequately covered all forms of racial discrimination.

But he wanted to know the condition of Acharya Vinoba Bhave's land distribution movement—'Bhoodan Andolan'—and observed that problems of caste and untouchability were facts of Indian life which must be dealt with.

A few months ago, United States Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick, too, had referred to the problem of untouchability, without naming India. The remark evoked a rebuke from Indian officials and also a reminder that the US also had its problems of discrimination.

INDIA, ETHIOPIA TO EXPAND ECONOMIC RELATIONS

New Delhi THE PATRIOT in English 20 Mar 83 p 5

[Text] Ethiopia and India on Saturday agreed to further expand and strengthen their economic relations, reports PTI.

A decision in this regard was taken at an hour-long meeting between a seven-member Ethiopian delegation and Industry Minister, N D Tiwari on Saturday morning.

The Ethiopian delegation, led by Mr Tekola Dejene, Senior Deputy Secretary of the Central Planning Supreme Council, will visit various medium and small scale industries for a week from Saturday to identify new areas of industrial cooperation.

During their meeting, it was emphasised that the excellent relations existing between the two countries should lead to further expansion and strengthening of the economic relations.

The visiting delegation has shown keen interest to draw more on Indian expertise in the field of small industries and set up technical institutions, machine tools, maintenance workshop, electrical, engineering group industrial estates, consultancy, and food processing industries.

They were also of the view that the two countries must take advantage of the expertise available in their countries and should identify joint ventures to be taken up in third countries.

The Ethiopian delegation will visit the Okhla industrial estate, Punjab Tractors, HMT, Pinjore, Small Industries Service Institute, Ludhiana, and the Central Leather Research Institute.

India's main exports to Ethiopia include spices, food items, tea, textile, ready-made garments, jute products, footwear, engineering goods, building material and chemicals and other allied products.

CSO: 4600/1903

GANDHI TO URGE WORLD LEADER RESPONSE TO SUMMIT APPEAL

Madras THE HINDU in English 17 Mar 83 p 9

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, will be writing personal letters at some point to the U.S. President, Mr. Ronald Reagan, the Soviet leader, Mr. Yuri Andropov, the Chinese Premier, Mr. Zhao Ziang, and heads of other big powers like Britain, France, West Germany and Japan, requesting them to attend the next U.N. General Assembly session in September in response to the appeal made by the non-aligned summit conference.

The appeal, officially designated as the "New Delhi message," has called upon the world leaders to meet in New York at the time of the General Assembly session to consider how best the international community could tackle the many stupendous problems facing mankind at present.

Mollifying ruffled feelings: As chairman of the non-aligned movement for the next three years, India has to take steps to put the political and economic declarations in their proper perspective, to mollify the ruffled feelings of countries like the U.S. which think that they have been unfairly singled out for condemnation in the summit documents by succumbing to the pressures of the radical elements within the non-aligned movement. Though it is not unduly concerned about U.S. sensitivities over the repeated references to its interference and involvement in West Asia, Southern Africa and Central America, India realises the need for some sort of elucidation to assure that there is no anti-American bias as such in these declarations.

The intention is not to offer any explanation in the nature of an indirect apologia for letting Cuba, Nicaragua and others expand the two-page reference to Central America in the Indian draft to a full 14 pages in the final political declaration. But as chairman, India has to take note of the compulsion to explain away the more offending passages to make it possible for the U.S. to respond positively to the non-aligned community's pleas for a world summit during the next General Assembly session.

Can create hurdles: If the U.S. decides to keep out of the proposed international conference on money and finance for development with universal participation, it can frustrate a major non-aligned initiative for global

economic reform, apart from creating serious hurdles to the implementation of the many immediate measures that have been suggested by the summit for relief to the developing countries in areas of critical importance.

At the so-called debriefing sessions, the members of the Indian delegation, who had played a prominent role in first drafting the summit documents after extensive consultations, then discussing the suggested changes with the regional groups concerned and finally putting the finishing touches to the declarations, appeals and action programmes, have been taking a fresh look at the prickly passages and giving some thought to what requires to be done to ensure the cooperation of both the western powers and the socialist countries in holding the proposed international conferences.

Special cell proposed: To get this exercise into its stride soon, the Government proposes to set up a special cell, division or department in the External Affairs Ministry to keep track of various developments and provide the necessary degree of coordination. The permanent mission of India at the U.N. is also being strengthened to provide proper staff work for the frequent meetings of the coordination bureau in New York and prepare for the next General Assembly session if it is going to be attended by many heads of government.

The Government is also considering a suggestion to revive the earlier practice of having a Secretary-General at the head of the External Affairs Ministry to coordinate the functions of various Secretaries who are now functioning in a quasi-independent manner, reporting directly to the Foreign Minister in their respective domains. The idea is to have someone at the helm who will be widely regarded as the top functionary in the ministry and principal adviser to the Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister on foreign relations.

CSO: 4600/1893

CONTENTS OF CPI-M 'SECRET' CIRCULAR REPORTED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 17 Mar 83 p 1

[Text]

CALCUTTA March 16

The CPI-M leadership is understood to have decided to move closer to the Telugu Desam and away from the CPI, if necessary.

According to reliable sources, the CPI-M central committee at its meeting here recently analysed the political situation, specially in the context of the elections in the south and decided on a change of course.

The views of the CPI-M leadership are reflected in a circular sent by the central committee to the party's Andhra unit. Special precaution appears to have been taken to ensure its secrecy. A mandate has been issued that the circular should be read out only at committee meetings up to the taluk level.

The circular criticises the Andhra unit for creating a mess in the recent elections. It gives two reasons for this. First, underestimation of the Telugu Desam. Secondly tailing behind the CPI and overestimating its strength.

The circular chastises CPI-M leader P Sundarayya for agreeing to jointly approach other parties along with the CPI. He is also criticised for allowing the CPI to get away with more seats for the contest. Parity should have been insisted upon, the circular maintains. By not doing so, the central leadership says, the CPI was unnecessarily given a boost.

The circular asks the State unit to rectify the mistake. The tactical line for the future is spelled out: the CPI-M must

on its own approach the Telugu Desam and support its candidates where the party is not putting up its candidates. Joint action with the CPI can continue on mass issues, but there must henceforward be more demarcation and distance. The Telugu Desam has to be seen as the biggest force which has to be united with in the battle to demolish the Congress-I. It has to get priority.

Asked why the circular was being kept such a secret, a CPI-M leader, who insisted on remaining unnamed, said that the ground had to be prepared first inside his own party. Too many leaders, he said, had hoped for too much from going along with the CPI. Too few realised that keeping a distance from it was the best way now, he added.

This shift by the CPI-M is likely to give rise to a problem between the party and the CPI, which has taken a strong stand on the Telugu Desam before and after the elections. According to some political observers, the CPI-M leadership is confident that the CPI has no option but to change its stand and decide to follow the Marxists. On the other hand, some other observers say that the CPI leaders, including general secretary C Raleswar Rao, have taken such a categorical and strong position on the Telugu Desam that they would not be pressurised into changing their stand. But the CPI-M attitude, as reflected in the circular, is likely to cause them serious worry.

KERALA REPORTED UNDERGOING RECORD DROUGHT

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 22 Mar 83 p 13

[Text] Trivandrum, March 21--The one long stretch of ever-green feast for the eyes that was Kerala now appeared to be a parched piece of earth thirsting for the elusive rain. The fields are unlikely to bear the burden of a fresh crop immediately. The rivers are drying up. Both the rural and urban people are living in the midst of water scarcity.

An old man at Kottayam over the age of 85 claims to be a witness to a similar drought in his childhood, but official records do not show a drought of similar impace in the past.

The drought came early as last October, when the monsoon failed to break at all. The next monsoon is due only in June, which means Kerala will have to suffer the dry spell for at least two more months, assuming it will not play truant once more.

Kerala has 1,316 villages, of which more than 800 have been declared drought-hit. More villages are due to join the list as the dry spell continues.

In scarcity-hit villages, the peasants are trying hard to retrieve as much of their standing crop as possible. The situation is worse in those villages depending solely on irrigation facilities. The irrigation reservoirs are drying up. Riverine villages are slightly better off now.

In the upper Kuttanad region of Kottayam district, the water level in the rivers has, for the first time in living memory, gone below the level of the fields. The farmers there are drilling bores on the river-bed and using pumping sets to save their crops. Pumping operations are also severely restricted owing to power cut, which is also the result of drought.

Even in the low-lying Kuttanad region, which is the rice bowl of the state, drinking water is scarce. The lake water around is saline. Wells are drying up fast all over the state.

Official estimates of damage often tend to err on the side of exaggeration. This is done to impress on the need for immediate financial relief. However, the pertinent point is that it is water and not money that can bring back prosperity to the fields and farms of Kerala.

The unprecedented drought must bring to the attention of the authorities and the political parties the need to conserve the depleted forest wealth, indiscriminate felling over years by the people hungering for land has brought the state to the brink of a calamity, according to environmentalists.

The rainfall has been erratic and declining for the last several years. Still the state for "the best of all its true wealth" continues to be encouraged by the authorities and supported by political parties.

The latest budget speech of the finance minister, Mr. P. M. Mani says: "The government desires to regularise more eligible occupants in forest areas. Even though such lands are designated on official records as forests, they are under occupation for a long time and as such they can no longer be treated as forest land". But Kerala has to get the permission of the Union government for regularising this irregular and massive encroachment of forests.

The political parties have not yet realised the popular resentment over disturbing the Silent Valley with a hydel project. The politicians are yet to understand that protection of forests alone can prevent drought in the future.

CC: 4600/1997

MINISTER REPORTS ON AID TO DROUGHT-STRICKEN AREAS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 Mar 83 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, March 18.

THE Union government has given an assistance of Rs. 467.05 crores to various states facing drought conditions.

This was stated by the Union minister of state for agriculture, Mr. Arif Mohammed Khan, in the Lok Sabha today, in response to a calling a question motion tabled jointly by Mr. Narayan Choubey, Mr. B. K. Kudiyal, Mr. K. M. Madhukar (all CPI), Mr. Uttam Rathod (Congress-I) and Mr. A. N. Nadar (DSP).

The minister said that the total cropped area of 42.87 million hectares and a population of 261 million was affected by drought in 15 states and Union territories.

The states facing drought are Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Gujarat, Haryana, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Tripura and Pondicherry.

These states had submitted memoranda seeking Central assistance. Central teams were sent to states for an on-the-spot study of drought conditions to various states. A high-level committee on relief recommended the extent of Central assistance.

No assistance was, however, given to U.P. as it was felt that late rains in August and September had improved the situation. The state government had also not taken up any relief measures, nor was any expenditure incurred until the time of the visit of the Central study team.

The minister said that the report of the Central team, which visited Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, would be considered tomorrow by the high-level committee on relief.

NOTHING FOR U.P.

Mr. Khan said that as part of the drought relief measures the Centre had made additional allocations of foodgrains to the states for payment of a part of wages in kind to labourers employed on relief works executed with Central assistance. These additional allocations of foodgrains were in addition to the allocations made for the public distribution system and under national rural employment programme.

He said that supplementary memoranda had been received from Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Pondicherry. Central teams would shortly visit Bihar and West Bengal for the second and third time, respectively. The requests from Madhya Pradesh and Pondicherry would be discussed at a meeting of the inter-ministerial group on March 21 and 22. Representatives of the states would also be invited to this meeting.

Mr. Khan hoped that the states would review their requirements of relief assistance in the coming months and moderate them to the extent possible in the light of winter rains which had brightened the rabi crop prospects.

"The government of India is anxious to ensure proper and effective use of Central assistance by the states keeping in view the severity and intensity of the distress in different districts", he added.

Mr. Khan said the agriculture ministry was sending follow-up teams to the states to look into the utilisation of the Central assistance. The minister also intended to visit some of the drought-hit states soon.

Attendance during the discussion was thin. At one stage only 42 members were present, most others having adjourned to parliament house restaurant or gone home for lunch.

ANALYST SCORES DELHI HANDLING OF REGIONAL PROBLEMS

Madras THE HINDU in English 27 Mar 83 p 2

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] After the dizzy spell of the non-aligned summit, which generated grand visions of a global role as a happy diversion from domestic compulsions, the Indian leadership is faced once again with all the disconcerting realities on the home front. Not a day passes without a fresh eruption of violence in some part of the country or the other followed by police firings and pious exhortations.

The bogey of foreign instigation is being revived as an convenient alibi for explaining away the limitations of the present political dispensation in comprehending the full magnitude of the challenges or coping with the turmoils of a society in flux saddled with a heavy backlog of frustrations.

There is an unmistakable smell of violence in the air and the tendency to treat the deepening ferment as largely a law and order problem that has to be tackled firmly with a proper display of force is aggravating an already explosive situation. As many as 350 to 400 persons were killed in police firings in the last two months in Assam, about 3,000 massacred and over 30,000 rendered homeless in the ghastly carnage that followed the ethnic riots, while an estimated 3,00,000 fled from their homes.

Desultory Terrorism

The situation in Punjab remains tense, but mercifully it has not got out of control to the point of plunging the State in widespread violence. It is still in the nascent stage of desultory terrorism, causing considerable concern without driving those in authority to overreact to the threat in their despairing moments.

The people have become so accustomed to the upsurge of violence that there is no sense of outrage over the politics of defiance that has come to be regarded as an integral part of Indian public life. It is not easy even for the best of governments to adopt a well modulated response that is more reformative than punitive in a country of India's size burdened with a baffling complexity of such problems. Those in authority get blamed for taking stern

action to curb the cult of violent protest that invariably leads to loss of life, but they are also damned for hesitating to do so despite grave provocation.

But a government forfeits the benefit of doubt when it allows its better judgment to be influenced by false notions of prestige, as it is happening in Assam. The Centre is blindly backing the Governor and the Chief Minister knowing fully well that the people have no confidence in them. Though no emergency as such has been declared in the State, Assam has been brought for all practical purposes under emergency rule with the Army supplementing the police in sustaining the civil administration in the disturbed districts.

Futile Exercise

A wiser course would have been to place the State under President's rule, appoint a new Governor and send in a new set of advisers to help restore normality in the State. The Centre has chosen for its own reasons to keep up the fiction of popular rule, while the State is being administered directly from Delhi with the help of the Army, the BSF and the CRP, not to speak of the numerous other security agencies involved in this futile exercise.

The Central leadership has been no less ambivalent in dealing with the Akali situation by allowing the infusion of party politics into it. The intransigence of the Akalis is nothing new, since it has been a part and parcel of the scramble for power in the name of transforming Punjab into a Sikh majority State. But the Government has pandered to the whims and fancies of the Akali extremists by placating them even at the risk of alienating the moderates among them, not to speak of the Hindus who constitute between 45 and 48 per cent of the total population of the State.

As a prisoner of its own indecision and vacillation, the Central has wittingly or unwittingly allowed the controversy to spill over the neighbouring Haryana, giving the Chief Minister, Mr. Bhajan Lai, an opportunity to propagate his own brand of Hindu militancy to contain Akali sectarianism.

The resultant confusion has done immense harm to the two border States that have been inspiring examples to the rest of the country with their impressive record of self-help through rapid agricultural development. The Hindu industrialists are no longer investing in Punjab, while a few have started shifting to Haryana to play safe in this politically volatile situation.

The sudden drop of Soviet orders for Indian hosiery, in the wake of the adverse balance in rupee trade, has led to serious recession in Punjab towns like Amritsar and Ludhiana, the traditional homes of the knit-wear industry which had been modernised with enormous investment to meet the ever-mounting orders from eastern Europe. The consequent unemployment is being blamed by the victims of this recession on the Akali agitation for totally unrelated reasons through sheer ignorance.

The rampaging emotions let loose by the Assam, and Akali agitations are, no doubt, basically of local origin, but their repercussions are felt all over

the country in the sense that they signify the emergence of militant sub-nationalism that is not quite the same thing as manifestation of regionalism. There is nothing incongruous in a local party like the AIADMK or the Telugu Desmi fighting for the interests of their States without prejudice to their commitment to simultaneously uphold the larger national interests.

Narrow Cult

The leaders of the Assam agitation, on the other hand, have been preaching a narrow cult of primary loyalty, in their antipathy towards the so-called foreign nationals that have swamped the State, that seeks to establish a separate identity at the cost of alienating themselves from the national mainstream.

The Central leadership has failed to maintain a credible distinction between the two trends, between legitimate regional aspirations and disruptive parochial emotions as in Punjab or Assam under the guise of sub-nationalism. During the Andhra and Karnataka Assembly elections, the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, campaigned so hard against regionalism that she seemed to blur in the heat of the controversy the essential difference between what was happening in Punjab and Assam and the upsurge of the regional sentiment in the south in the wake of the anti-Congress (I) wave sweeping the two southern States.

The result is that even today there is no clear concept at any level of the political spectrum of the role of regional factors in a federal polity like India whose unity is based on the diversity of its people.

Though Mrs. Gandhi herself has accepted the southern verdict with good grace and said nothing after the poll to decry it, some of her party colleagues have been petty and peevish in denouncing the recent meeting of the southern Chief Ministers as extra-constitutional, anti-national and even seditious, challenging the very right of the non-Congress (I) Governments to adopt a collective approach to their problems.

The Union Minister for Petroleum, Mr. Shiv Shankar, went a step further in condemning the Andhra Pradesh bill conferring equal property rights on sons and daughters as a conspiratorial attempt to bypass land reforms and urban ceiling laws to help the rich under the guise of social legislation.

He apparently did not realise that his ill-advised criticism could recoil on the Congress (I) by giving the impression that the Centre was against granting equal property rights to women. In a State where the women voters have traditionally voted for Mrs. Gandhi's party, it would be highly damaging to let this feeling prevail before the next parliamentary elections.

So, Mrs. Gandhi had to step in to get the record set right that, whatever may be Mr. Shiv Shankar's personal misgivings about the purpose of this legislation, the Congress (I) as such was not against giving daughters equal property rights along with the sons. It is astonishing how on even an elementary issue of this nature, the Union Ministers could speak in different voices.

since what Mr. Shiv Shankar said surprised Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao no less than Mrs. Gandhi as he was well aware of its wider political implications.

In dealing with non-Congress (I) States, the Centre should apply the same principles of peaceful co-existence that the non-aligned countries are supposed to practise both in the bilateral and international spheres. If the element of tolerance and spirit of accommodation are missing in the conduct of domestic relations, it would be impossible to apply them to regulate international relations. This should be one of the main lessons of the recent non-aligned summit conference.

States' Duty

It should be equally obligatory for the non-Congress (I) Governments to extend their constructive cooperation to the Centre on all matters of national importance. The interests of Andhra Pradesh, for example, will not be served by reversing the order of priorities by concentrating on gimmicks like abolishing the upper house when there are more important things to be done. In attaching greater political significance to such marginal issues, the Chief Minister is only playing into the hands of his detractors in Delhi who can embarrass him by simply delaying Central action on it.

The pathetic urge to score a point often assumes the character of a rapacious ambition to derive some advantage from every controversy by infusing churlish overtones into it. In politics as in private life, caprice and ruse are as damaging as cowardice and dissimulation. In the long run it is straightforwardness both in thought and action that pays, not insinuation and exaggeration.

(S0: 4600/189

GANDHI IN MAHARASHTRA CONVENTION: APPOINTALS REPAIRED

Bomby THE TIMES OF INDIA in English, 12 May 1961

(Text)

NEW DELHI, March 18

THE Congress (I) president, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, today came out strongly against "bogus members" in her party and said this menace must be dealt with effectively for the party poll to take place.

Addressing PCC(I) presidents of all states and Union territories at the AICC (I) headquarters, Mrs. Gandhi said if the right kind of people were to emerge at various levels in the organisation, then "bogus membership must be stopped, the sooner the better." Otherwise, she observed, people who "could depict 'mosley power'" would come to occupy various party positions on the strength of bogus enrolment.

Mrs. Gandhi made it clear that while she favoured early organisation elections, there was no point making them if genuine party workers were to be sidelined by those more interested in personal gain and in getting into the party for other reasons.

She also expressed the view that state presidents should be selected from the ranks of the district

and state levels were relevant and could be the basis for a few could do to the party.

The Prime Minister spoke at length to the assembled PCC(I) presidents on a wide range of subjects including the situation in Punjab, Assam, reorganisation of the party, communists and their role in the Congress and AICC, and implementation of the 12-point programme.

On organisational elections, she spoke of the difference of opinion that existed in her party. While some people thought that elections must be held now itself, there were others who favoured a postponement because of the problem of bogus membership.

In her first ever meeting with the state party presidents, Mrs. Gandhi stressed the need for a "no-confidence" when the party failed to be re-elected when they lost. She also called upon partymen to eschew personal gain.

Ministershaw Mr. Girishwar Prasad Singh's miners were unhappy that the party had chosen Mr. B. R. Vasantdada Patel as chief minister of Bihar. They had other problems and deserved resolute support.

C 601 4600/1424

FINANCE MINISTER SPEAKS IN DISCUSSION ON BUDGET

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 19 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, March 18--The Union Finance Minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, told the Lok Sabha today that the Centre would meet in full the plan needs of the States. Replying to a four-day general discussion on the Budget for 1983-84, Mr Mukherjee announced that besides raising the contribution of the Centre, various other concessions were being provided to the States.

Mr Mukherjee did not agree to the Opposition criticism that he had framed his taxation proposals to deprive the States of their share. Every tax proposal had its own logic. It was possible that in the process the State suffered.

Mr Mukherjee conceded that the concessions sought and given in excise levies would mean losses to the States. These were, however, not motivated by this consideration. Far from it. The reliefs in excise duties were aimed at giving a boost to the economy because of certain situations. In case of income tax, adjustments were made in response to the universal demand for raising the exemption limit. He had tried to put the process of raising the exemption limit in the reverse gear, Mr Mukherjee claimed.

Mr Mukherjee said that the Centre was conscious of the interests of the States. It was precisely for this reason that he had taken up the responsibility of overdrafts which stood at Rs 1,743 crores raising the deficit to 24%.

The Finance Minister did not agree to the criticism that administrative expenditure had increased and said that it had gone down from 3.8% in 1980-81 to 3.18% in 1982-83.

On the question of increase in non-plan expenditure he asserted that it was not wasteful and largely went to the maintenance of assets created by investments.

He said one of the directions of the Budget was to curb ostentatious expenditure. The intention was to give incentives to people to save and invest and provide definite disincentive to wasteful expenditures. The disallowance from tax envisaged by the Budget was aimed in this direction.

Referring to full-page advertisements taken out by business houses to promote sales of their products, the Minister said: "I have no hesitation in saying, if I had the way within the framework of the existing law, I would like to introduce straightway a small expenditure tax. It is necessary to curb expenditure. I do not agree to the point that by spending more, we are increasing efficiency. We should have an inhibiting arrangement where spending is not rewarded". Mr Mukherjee said he was willing to grant 100% expenditure on export promotion in the overseas market, but one could not expect him to grant expenditure in excess of this.

The Finance Minister said the Budget provided enhanced outlay for the 26-point programme at Rs 10,000 crores which was by no means a small amount.

Mr Mukherjee criticized the tendency of commenting "that the economy is on the verge of collapse", or that "the country will not be able to meet its debt commitments".

The Minister said, it was not always possible to maintain the price level during this period of the year, and the wholesale index always showed an upward movement at this time. But taking the average of 11 months, the rise in wholesale prices index had come down in 1982-83 to 2.81 from 217 in 1979-80. If the Government had not taken the steps it had, the economy would have worsened, Mr Mukherjee asserted adding that increases between the Budget estimates and revised estimates were inevitable for instance during 1977-78 the Budget deficit of Rs 84 crores went up to Rs 93 crores in the revised estimates. In the subsequent year it had gone up from Rs 1,071 crores to Rs 1,590 crores. In 1979-80, the estimated deficit in the Budget had gone up from Rs 1,382 crores to Rs 2,700 crores.

He defended price adjustments before the Budget, saying this was absolutely necessary, if public sector units were to be made viable. This had been done even during 1978-79, he pointed out.

C.O: 4600/1900

FINANCE MINISTER ASKS MORE FLEXIBILITY OF IMF

Madras THE HINDU in English 16 Mar 83 p 6

[Text] New Delhi, March 15--Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, Finance Minister, today told the Rajya Sabha that India had so far purchased 2400 million SDRs (Special Drawing Rights) from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) under the extended financing facility programme. There had been no repurchase under this programme as the repayment had not fallen due.

Mr. Mukherjee said the Baghdad meeting of Asian members of the Group of 77 countries had urged the IMF to undertake "a fundamental review of the principles on which its conditionality rests and revise immediately its policy conditions under the tranches so as to place greater stress on supply expansion fully reflecting the social priorities and objectives of countries and their economic and political constraints".

Greater use should be made of the multi-year programmes and due allowance made for uncertainties in setting performance criteria. In prescribing adjustment measures, the declaration urged the IMF to take fully into account the circumstances and factors beyond the control of the developing countries.

Rupee Value

The Finance Minister said during question hour that the rupee had depreciated by 19.57 per cent against the U.S. dollar on March 1, 1983 compared to the position on March 1, 1980. In the context of floating exchange rate arrangements for major currencies of the world, the earlier connotations of devaluation and revaluation had lost their relevance.

The exchange rates between rupee and other currencies "move upward and downward depending upon the fluctuations in the value of currencies mainly of countries which are India's major trading partners. Although the rupee has depreciated against the U.S. dollar, it has appreciated against the pound sterling, deutsche mark, franc and Italian lira during the same period."

Probe Into Security Paper Mill Affairs

Mr. Mukherjee informed the House while replying to a question on the security paper mill in Hoshangabad (Madhya Pradesh) that the Government had ordered an

enquiry into the alleged irregularities in the purchase and use of machine tools in the mill. He, however, denied that the installation of the machinery by the UK firm, Portals Ltd., had been done improperly.

Some defects in the functioning of the sophisticated electronic equipment in the modernised mill had been successfully attended to while efforts were being made to set right a machine known as the rag tearing line.

Mr. Mukherjee said that the fall in production in the mill was due to the closure of one pair of paper-making machines from April to October 1982 and the other pair from November 1982 to March 1983 necessitated by the expansion and modernization programme which was currently under execution.

Other factors responsible for the lower production were the power crisis and the fact that it took time to get full rated output from the new machinery.

(S) (1) 4600/1889

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY ISSUES ANNUAL REPORT

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 19 Apr 83 p 5

[Text]

The principal thrust of India's diplomatic activity in 1982-83 was towards reducing tensions and improving the climate of peace, according to the annual report of the External Affairs Ministry, reports PTI.

The report says India "can rightly lay claim" to having worked with 'much success' towards those goals.

Even if the serious international problems remained unsolved, hopes of progress had been revived because of the demonstration of unity of purpose and action by the movement of non-aligned countries.

Dealing with the deterioration in the international situation and lack of progress in resolving major political and economic issues, the report says that humanity as a whole felt less secure and more uncertain today than at any time since the last World War. "It is not only the fear of a nuclear holocaust that grips the minds of men and women everywhere but equally the long term consequences of the present trends and developments especially for the independence and viability of non-aligned nations".

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, the report says, showed considerable personal interest and took several 'bold initiatives' in multilateral as well as bilateral diplomacy to promote the basic objectives of India's foreign relations.

Her dialogues with the Presidents of France, US and USSR served to underline the importance attached by India to the promotion of better understanding and cooperation between nations with differing socio-economic and political systems.

The report says that despite an improvement in the climate of relations differences between India and the US continued to persist on a number of issues of special concern to India. There was 'little indication' of any reconsideration on the part of the US administration of its decision to supply sophisticated arms to Pakistan which was "completely disproportionate to that country's actual defence needs". India's concern on this issue was reiterated on a number of occasions including the Prime Minister's visit.

Differences also continued between India and US in their perceptions of political events in West and South West Asia.

According to the report India's anxiety over the presence of non-littoral naval forces in the Indian Ocean "remains at odds with US actions". Nevertheless it was hoped that the growing dialogue between the two countries at various levels would improve bilateral relations despite differing world views held by the two governments.

On the economic side, India continued to be concerned by US policy towards multilateral development banks.

HOME MINISTER ADDRESSES POLICE GATHERING 21 MAR

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 22 Mar 83 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, March 21 (PTI)--The Union home minister, Mr. P. C. Sethi, today directed senior police officers to fully utilise the National Security Act while dealing with activities which disrupt harmonious communal relations and strike at the very security of society.

Mr. Sethi, who was addressing the annual conference of the heads of the Central and state police intelligence organisations here, said the communal situation in several states continued to be a matter of considerable concern, and called for "vigilance of the highest degree" on their part.

The home minister asked local-level administrators in communally-sensitive areas to maintain "inter-community institutions" to ensure peace and to bring them into action at a short notice.

He also called for high efficiency on the part of special cells meant for speedy investigations of communal incidents.

Mr. Sethi said he had written to the state governments to set up special courts to try cases relating to communal incidents speedily.

"Massive Strides"

Mr. Sethi criticised "negative forces" for spreading disunity and religious intolerance in the country at a time when the country's prestige abroad was rising, as seen during the recent non-aligned summit held under the leadership of the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi.

He also referred to the "rising crescendo of voices" spreading division and violence at a time when "massive strides" were being made in various spheres in building up a modern nation.

Mr. Sethi also referred to recent surrenders of certain notorious dacoit gangs in some areas, and said these had created an impression among people that criminals who had terrorised them might secure rehabilitation "if they required enough notoriety."

Instead, the minister called for firm action under the law to secure deterrent effect and more sincere public appreciation. In the same context he denounced "encounters" where the police credibility was doubted.

He also highlighted the special responsibility of senior officers towards the welfare of the men under their command, whose strength was now over a million serving in various Central and state police establishments and security forces.

Mr. Sethi said in the recent past there had been comparatively greater satisfaction among policemen "on account of the fairly progressive attitudes of the state governments" in ameliorating their lot.

The minister complimented the police and security organisations on their excellent services during the Asian Games and the non-aligned summit, and urged the senior police officers to gain from such exposure to international events to hasten the pace of modernisation in police work.

CSO: 4600/1907

GANDHI MESSAGE TO COMMITTEE ON APARTHEID REPORTED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 22 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, March 21--The Prime Minister today pledged the full support and solidarity of the people and government of India with the struggle against all forms of racial discrimination, oppression and exploitation.

In a message to the chairman of the special committee against apartheid on the occasion of the international day for the elimination of racial discrimination, Mrs. Gandhi said, "Opposition to discrimination in any form is basic to India's philosophy and policy".

"Our constitution", the Prime Minister added, "enshrines it and our leaders have crusaded for it. India was among the first to sever all relations with the government of South Africa in protest against its policies of apartheid".

Mrs. Gandhi said that the seventh non-aligned summit in New Delhi this month declared that the struggle for self-determination of the people of southern Africa was an integral part of the campaign against oppression, exploitation, domination, inequality and discrimination. The non-aligned movement called for the unconditional release of Mr. Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners.

The summit reiterated its solidarity with the Namibian people and welcomed the U.N. General Assembly's decision to hold an international conference in support of the Namibian people's struggle for independence.

Mrs. Gandhi asked "the powerful countries" to join in imposing comprehensive mandatory sanctions against South Africa under the U.N. charter. She said the alternative would be devaluation of international morality, strife and even war.

The Prime Minister said: "On this day, we pay tribute to the memory of the countless unarmed and innocent men, women and children who have been brutally massacred by the South African regime, the only 'offence' being their peaceful demand for equality. The blood of those heroic martyrs should not and shall not be in vain. The African people of South Africa are fighting for a just cause; their struggle is bound to triumph."

CSO: 4600/1907

IDEOLOGICAL EDUCATION OF CONGRESS-I YOUTH BEGINS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 17 Mar 83 p 16

[Text] New Delhi, March 16--An attempt is being made to mould the youth wing of the Congress (I) into an ideologically-oriented outfit.

This is to enable the party "to meet the ideological challenge of the BJP and the Communist parties".

The Congress (I) has so far been what is called a "mass" party, without a trained cadre--unlike the cadre-based BJP or the Communist parties.

But since the beginning of this year, and particularly after the defeat of the Congress (I) in the Andhra Pradesh and Karnafaka Assembly elections, serious thinking began in the party on how to revamp it and introduce a new style in its functioning.

The party High Command charted out a plan envisaging a team of some 5,000 trained workers by the beginning of 1985, when the next general elections are due.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi, now the AICC (I) general secretary, reportedly played a role in evolving the concept.

A training programme was started on February 21 to give exhaustive to some 300 young entrants.

The coaching camp is going on at the Talkatora gardens in New Delhi. Every sixth week, not more than 300 new recruits are to be brought into the camp and at the end of two years, nearly 5,000 young people will have finished their training in party ideology and programme.

The organizers want the trainees to be at least graduates, so that the quality of the future partly leaders can be considered good. The organizers are said to be happy with response to the scheme.

The selection process is stated to be very strict, picking on the "more serious and dedicated young people" whom the RSS and the Communist parties seek to rope in.

The training too is strict, beginning early in the morning with drills and other forms of exercise; lectures on history, culture and politics; "intellectual discourses" among the trainees etc., later during the day.

So far, a number of party "ideologues" have lectured to the trainees, and they include Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao and Mr. R. Venkataraman.

CSO: 4600/1892

FORMATION OF SOUTHERN CHIEF MINISTERS COUNCIL TOLD

Bangalore Meeting

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 21 Mar 83 p 1

[Text]

BANGALORE, March 20.—The Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry, who met here today at the initiative of Mr Ramakrishna Hegde, decided to form a council of southern Chief Ministers to discuss their problems and solve them as far as possible. The decision was announced at a Press conference addressed by the four Chief Ministers.

The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Mr M. G. Ramachandran, said the formation of the council was only a beginning. "Only when all Chief Ministers participate in council will our aim be fulfilled", he added.

Mr Hegde said they had discussed each other's problems and the forging of a common strategy, particularly regarding a memorandum to be submitted to the eighth Finance Commission.

The conference recommended to the Centre the constitution of a fiscal commission to suggest amendments to the Constitution and other enactments for a "more equitable distribution of resources between the Centre and the States".

It also sought changes in the devolution formula of financial resources and powers to the State Governments in certain matters, including fixation of the prices of agricultural produce.

PTI adds the Chief Ministers said the "bulk of the financial resources should be transferred to the States on a statutory basis rather than on a discretionary basis". "The criteria of distribution of discretionary resources should be decided upon by the Council of Chief Ministers", they added.

They also wanted a change in the Central assistance pattern itself to reduce the debt burden of the States.

The Chief Ministers thought that the tax efforts made by the southern States had been consistently satisfactory but, nevertheless, inadequate to meet requirements to fulfil the objectives of the States.

The present devolution of resources was not commensurate with the responsibility of the States under the Constitution. The total divisible pool to be shared with the States had to be increased, they said. This might be done by including the surcharge in the basic income-tax and raising the States' share in excise duties from 40% to 60%. The Corporation tax, too, should be included in the divisible pool with 40% of the receipts accruing to the States, they added.

Addressing a joint Press conference, the Chief Ministers, Mr Ramakrishna Hegde of Karnataka, Mr M. G. Ramachandran of Tamil Nadu, Mr N. T. Rama Rao of Andhra Pradesh and Mr D. Ramachandran of Pondicherry, made it clear that their decision was not "political" and did not mean confrontation with the Centre.

It was directed at establishing a cooperative federalism, which was the true spirit of the Indian Constitution. The exercise was aimed at promoting cooperation and coordination with the Centre. The council would review fiscal relations between States and the Centre.

Barring the Chief Minister of Kerala, all the southern Chief Ministers attended the meeting. Mr Hegde, at whose instance the meeting was convened, said Mr Karunakaran had expressed his inability to come since he was preoccupied with the States legislature session. A copy of the decision would be forwarded to him.

Mr Hegde and Mr M. G. Ramachandran said the council would be gradually expanded to encompass all the States in the country. Asked whether the Congress ("I" Chief Ministers would join, Hegde said: "May be".

The meeting reached a consensus on several issues.

It recommended to the Centre the setting up of a fiscal commission with adequate State representation and statutory powers to review Centre-State relations in fiscal matters in the "light of the experience of the States over the past 35 years and to recommend amendments to the Constitution and other enactments in the interest of a more equitable distribution of resources between the Centre and the States".

The Chief Ministers said the present system of determining prices of agricultural produce was unsatisfactory and not remunerative to farmers. It also resulted in heavy expenditure on subsidies and subventions by the States.

They demanded that prices of agriculture produce be fixed by the State Governments in consultation with farmers' organizations, taking into account, inter alia, the cost of production, local productivity levels, incentives required and market trends. Credit availability should be related to reasonable prices, to be determined by the State Government, they said.

The meeting demanded that the Centre provide the required subsidy from Central resources outside

the Plan allocations in case of falling markets for reasons beyond the States' control.

The farmers' organizations should be given the fullest opportunity to market and export products themselves to eliminate large-scale profiteering by middlemen, they said.

The Centre should make available in full through banking channels, without having to get its (Centre's) approval, the required credit for market support activity and procurement of agricultural products

by States and corporations, the meeting demanded.

Regarding bilateral assistance from the World Bank and other international lending institutions and countries, the total quantum of such financial assistance sanctioned should be passed on to the respective States on the same terms and conditions as were availed of by the Centre with the Centre retaining only a nominal amount towards service charges, the Chief Ministers said.

Analyst on Delhi Reaction

Madras THE HINDU in English 21 Mar 83 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, March 20--The Centre is awaiting the outcome of the initiative of the Southern Chief Ministers for adopting a common approach to the Finance Commission, before coming to a definite conclusion whether such efforts by the Congress (I) or the non-Congress (I) States on a regional basis should be encouraged to sort out their local problems.

If the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry belonging to different political parties can rise above parochial considerations and tackle in a positive spirit issues like river water sharing, power shortage and foodgrain movement to help one another to the extent possible consistent with their own requirements, it should be possible to establish health precedents for regional self-help and inter-dependence without involving the Centre in all such decisions.

Role of Zonal Councils: The assurances of the Andhra and Karnataka Chief Ministers, Mr. N. T. Rama Rao and Mr. Ramakrishna Hegde, that the proposed joint strategy to be adopted by the Southern States before the Finance Commission is not a camouflage for a "gang-up" against the Centre has been noted here, although the Congress (I) leaders are waiting to see how far this entente cordiale would go and how long it would last in the collective pursuit of their shared interests. The Zonal Councils, in view of the Centre, are designed to serve much the same purpose in non-political spheres by cutting across party alignments, since both the Congress (I) and non-Congress (I) Governments have often taken common positions over regional matters concerning them.

PM's view point: The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, has not been averse to the idea of taking a fresh look at Centre-State relations in the light of the experience gained during the last 30 years in the functioning of the country's constitutional system, to eliminate avoidable frictions. She almost agreed to set up a small body of experts to examine the various aspects of this relationship as part of an overall settlement of the Assam and Akali

agitations. The idea has been deferred because of the undesirability of tackling compartmentally a complex and sensitive issue of this nature without some prior understanding of its scope and purpose with those agitating for greater autonomy for the States.

Scope of Delhi meet: The issue of Centre-State relationship as such will not come up for discussion at the meeting of the Chief Ministers called by Mrs. Gandhi in Delhi on April 4 and 5 to review the general situation in the country. But the idea is very much in the minds of the Central leaders who feel that it cannot be put off much longer without causing unnecessary suspicions about the Centre's intentions in non-Congress (I)-ruled States.

The Prime Minister is also reported to be quite keen on having better relations with the non-Congress (I) Chief Ministers, at least at the personal level, to have a better understanding of their respective roles and interests before the next parliamentary elections. She would like to ensure that the spirit of southern cooperation does not extend to the point of a concerted bid by the ruling parties in Andhra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu to capture a sizable number of Lok Sabha seats and function as a formidable bloc in Parliament.

The apparent intention is to let the regional parties function regionally in their local domains without developing ambitions of playing a combined role at the Centre. It is for this reason that the Congress (I) is refraining from playing any toppling game even in Karnataka where the present coalition is obliged to conduct itself with great caution.

Though the next parliamentary polls are due at the beginning of January, 1985, the election activity will begin at least three or four months earlier, which means that Mrs. Gandhi will be left with hardly 15 months to prepare for the ordeal after the conclusion of the current budget session of Parliament. The Congress (I) has already started preparing for the elections in the sense that steps are being taken to recruit and train party workers for the campaign.

Another Cabinet reshuffle?: It is against this background that Mrs. Gandhi has been thinking of one more Cabinet reshuffle, after the current budget session, perhaps the final instalment of changes before the next elections. The indications are that the next round would be on a much larger scale than the two recent reshuffles, since she would like to utilise the opportunity to remove some of the distortions in regional representation in the Central Cabinet as a result of too many ad hoc changes.

And the Prime Minister can ill-afford to displease important States or regions that have been deprived of their due representation after dropping some of the Ministers who, for one reason or the other, had not come up to her expectations.

CSO: 4600/1904

CORRESPONDENT SAYS CIA WORKING UNDER USAID COVER

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 21 Mar 83 p 1

[Text]

JAIPUR, March 20 — The US intelligence agency CIA is operating through the USAID programme for irrigation. Mr Deependra Singh (Cong-I) alleged in the Assembly while participating in a debate on the demands of the Irrigation department.

The ruling party member said that the officers in the 'modernisation' programme were in league with the CIA. Foreigners come to see the project and the project details are copied, he added.

Demanding an enquiry Mr Singh observed it is a question of national security and integrity.

The Rs 15 crore irrigation modernisation project is funded by the USAID.

Mr Singh also objected to the foreign trips made by the officers with their families under the programme. He alleged that a senior officer in order to ar-

range his tour had prepared a forged bill for payment of Rs 6.5 lakhs.

The bill was made in the name of a contractor but the payment has not been made. He asked why the payment was not made, if the bill was correct. He also alleged that there were big irregularities in the Irrigation department, and demanded a probe.

Mr Singh said that during 1981 about 150 dams in Rajasthan had collapsed. But the Government was completely in the dark as the officers hushed up the matter at lower levels.

Simtoli dam in Gangapur city he said broke down in 1981 because of wrong designing. And to hush up the matter the officers accepted a tender for Rs 20 lakh silently and the Government was never informed.

He alleged serious irregularities in the construction of Morela dam also.

CSO: 4600/1906

REPORTER TELLS PENDING GOVERNMENT CHANGES, APPOINTMENTS

Madras THE HINDU in English 24 Mar 83 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, March 23

At the level of Secretaries to the Central Government, major changes are expected to be made in the next few days in the top bureaucracy which had been kept in abeyance because of the Prime Minister's preoccupation with the non-aligned summit conference.

The Economic Affairs Secretary in the Finance Ministry, Mr. M. Narasimham, has sought the Government's permission to resign for compelling personal reasons.

But the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, is keen that he should continue in service, at least for a year more, because of his expertise in dealing with complex international financial matters at a time when India, as chairman of the non-aligned movement, is initiating a series of moves for North South talks on the global economic situation.

The Secretary in charge of revenue in the Finance Ministry, Mr. V. B. Eswaran, has gone on leave pending his reversion to Gujarat. The present Chief Secretary in Gujarat is due to retire shortly and the State Government has asked the Centre to send back Mr. Eswaran so that he could be appointed to this key post in view of his administrative experience.

The Secretary of the Petroleum Ministry, Mr. Lavraj Kumar, is being appointed Secretary of the Energy Board or Commission that is due to be set up soon. The Government is, therefore, looking around for an equally competent officer to run this Ministry, when India is making heavy investments in the oil sector to achieve self-sufficiency in the shortest possible time.

Challenging assignments: A few other

Secretaries whose performance has not come up to the Government's expectations are due to be given lighter charges pending their retirement in the next year or two in the normal course. But some others who have done exceedingly well are being given more challenging assignments.

The Government has appointed Mr. V. Chitambaram as Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes in the place of Mr. Jagdish Chand, who proceeded on "medical" leave pending an inquiry into some allegations made against him. The new Chairman is due to take charge tomorrow while the present incumbent will technically continue to be on leave for the present.

About a dozen Additional Secretaries, 20 Joint Secretaries, 25 Deputy Secretaries and 40 Under-Secretaries are being reverted to the States on completion of their prescribed tenures in pursuance of the Prime Minister's recent directive. But some exceptions have been made in cases where the ministries concerned are unable to relieve them now.

The Government has approved the appointment of a Joint Secretary in the rank of a Minister in the permanent Mission of India at the U.N., along with an extra Counsellor and a First Secretary, to strengthen it in handling the extra work created by India's emergence as NAM chairman. A director in the U.N. division in the External Affairs Ministry has been placed in exclusive charge of non-aligned work, under the direct supervision of the Foreign Secretary, to provide liaison between the political and economic divisions dealing with it. A bigger set-up will be established after the necessary de-

cision has been taken whether the Prime Minister's Secretariat or the External Affairs Ministry should serve as the nodal point for coordinating the work of chairmanship of the NAM.

Diplomatic appointments: The latest instalment of diplomatic appointments include the transfer of the Ambassador to Yugoslavia, Mr A. S. Chib, to Iraq, the posting of the Additional Secretary in charge of the Americas, Mr. Arvind Deo, as Ambassador to Hungary, the shifting of the Minister in the Indian Embassy in Washington, Mr. A. D. N. Haksar, as Ambassador to Bhutan, and the transfer of the Ambassador to Iraq, Mr. Peter Sinai, as Minister in Washington. The other postings in this chain are of the present High Commissioner to Malaysia, Mr Prakash Shah, who goes as Ambassador to Venezuela, the High Commissioner to Kenya, Mr. Vinod Grover, as Ambassador to Brazil, and the transfer of the present Ambassador to Bulgaria, Mr. Deva Rao, to Italy, the Ambassador to Brazil, Mr. S. Nath to Bulgaria, and the Joint Secretary in charge of South-East Asia, Mr. Kiran Doshi, as Ambassador to Ireland.

After the Additional Secretary, Mr. J. R. Hiramath, takes over his new assignment as Ambassador to Yugoslavia, the Joint Secretary in charge of China, Mr. Ranjit Sethi, goes as High Commissioner to Malaysia, and the Joint Secretary heading the U.N. division, Mr. D. N. Muley, moves to Manila as Ambassador to the Philippines, there will be many changes in the External Affairs Ministry leading to the reallocation of several territorial divisions, in addition to some adjustments already made after the non-aligned conference.

CSO: 4600/1914

REPORT ON SANT LONGOWAL'S 13 MAR STATEMENT TO PRESS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 14 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] Amritsar, March 13--The Akali Dal president, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, today asked the people of Punjab to be ready for a "decisive long-term fight," to secure their "legitimate demands", reports PTI. The Sant, in a statement to the Press, said that he had to give this call as the Centre was evading the issues on one pretext or another.

"There is no other way left for us than to fight a decisive long-term battle", he said. He reiterated his appeal to the Punjab Congress (I) and Opposition MLAs to give up their posts in the cause of the State's rights and said "sticking to such posts at this juncture amounts to betrayal of Punjab".

The Sant repeated his three-phased programme which was announced yesterday and said the party would hold conferences in the State, particularly in the constituencies of these MLAs, to create conditions for forcing them to resign if they failed to do so by March 15.

Referring to his programme of blocking traffic in the State on April 4 and raising a volunteer force of 100,000 people, he said, these volunteers would be ready for any sacrifice "even at a day's notice". The first batch will take an oath on Baishakhi day on April 14 at Akal Thakt here.

Sant Longowal, however, made it clear that the party programme would be "peaceful" and would end only on the implementation of the Anandpur Sahib resolution and achievement of other demands.

Meanwhile, the Punjab CPI leader, Mr Raj Kumar, MLA, met Sant Longowal and discussed the Punjab situation. It is understood that Mr Kumar asked for the withdrawal of resignations of party MPs and MLAs. The Sant reportedly turned down his request pleading that the resignations were for the protection of Punjab's rights. The CPI leader pleaded for resumption of talks with Centre.

Several ruling Congress (I) MLAs and Ministers in Punjab have ridiculed the Akali Dal's latest move to gherao them and hold public meetings in their constituencies.

At public meetings or in statements they reminded the Akali leaders not to forget that they too had been elected by the people of their respective constituencies after defeating their rival Akali candidates.

The Virat Hindu Sammelan president, Mr Karan Singh, MP, today warned that any divisive activities in a sensitive border State like Punjab could have serious repercussions on national security and welfare, adds UNI.

Mr Karan Singh appealed to the Akalis to resume talks with the Centre on their demands and for a solution of the Punjab crisis. He said that it could be resolved only through negotiations.

CSO: 4600/1884

POLICE REPORTEDLY BREAK UP PAKISTANI SPY RING

Bombay THE TIMES OF India in English 19 Mar 83 p 1

[Text]

AMRITSAR. March 18 (UNI): The Amritsar police claim to have busted an Indian spy ring which had been supplying military information to the Pakistan intelligence service for the past 20 years.

Madan Mohan, a driver of the Amritsar-Lahore Janata Express and his brother-in-law, Baldev Raj, a driver in the Military Engineering Service (MES), were arrested on March 12 and 13 respectively, the police said.

Both were remanded to police lock-up till March 20 and were under interrogation, they added.

The two, according to the police, had confessed to having supplied a map giving the location of anti-aircraft battery here to the Pakistan intelligence during the 1965 Indo-Pak war.

The anti-aircraft battery, it may be recalled, was rendered useless during the last few days of the 14-day war in a direct hit by a Pak Star-fighter, which, however, was shot down by ack ack fire and its pilot was killed.

According to the police, Baldev Raj used to collect information, while Madan Mohan passed it on to the Pakistan customs across Attari railway station.

The police stumbled on Madan Mohan through Ram Kumar, an alleged smuggler, who was arrested earlier this month.

Ram Kumar reportedly told the police about the activities of Madan Mohan during interrogation and Madan Mohan, in turn, led the police to Baldev Raj.

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CSO: 4600/1898

ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION LEADER SPEAKS ON RETURN

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 22 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] The second Indian Antarctica expedition returned here today to a warm welcome after paving the way for opening an air link between the icy continent and India.

The leader of the 27-member team, Mr. V. K. Raina, said the team had constructed an air strip beyond the unmanned station, 'Dakshin Gangotri', which was set up by the first expedition last year.

The air link could be started by next year, Mr. Raina said. He said that the expedition had achieved all its objectives.

The Mormugao port reverberated with deafening cheers from a large crowd, including naval personnel, school children and representatives of several organisations as MV "Polar Circle", the expedition ship, steamed in shortly before 10 a.m.

Mr. Raina described this home coming as "great" after a voyage of 24,000 kms and 110 days. At a reception accorded at the port, the Goa chief minister, Mr. Pratap Sinh Rane, congratulated the team on its great achievement.

He said India had a great role to play in the scientific sphere. It was a proud moment for all the people, he added.

Mr. Raina said with the scientific base established by the Indian team in Antarctica, it would be possible to carry out further research.

He said steps were taken during this expedition to convert the unmanned Indian station, 'Dakshin Gangotri', into a permanent one. The other objectives carried out included the establishment of communication link, scientific data collection, rock drilling, construction of an air strip and logistics.

UNI adds: During its stay, the team not only recovered the important cassette left behind by the first Antarctica mission last year, but reactivated the station at Dakshin Gangotri Recording instruments for collecting weather data were also recharged.

Mr. Raina said the communication link established with the headquarters in New Delhi operated through INMARSAT, a commercial satellite.

Eleven scientists assisted by three doctors, maintenance and construction engineers and helicopter pilots collected rock samples. A study of these samples will determine the truth about the hypothesis of the continental drift, according to which Antarctica and India were once joined together.

Mr. Taina said the team members drawn from seven scientific organisations like the National Physical Laboratory, the Indian Institute of Geomagnetism and Geological Survey of India studied bacteriology and virology. The medical team drawn from the defence service observed the physiological and psychological pressures on members of the team in isolated conditions in extremely low temperatures.

CSO: 4600/1907

BRIEFS

AICP CHINA POLICY--Chandigarh, March 19--Mr. S. A. Dange, leader of the All-India Communist Party, said yesterday that his party did not support the government's efforts to normalise relations with China. He told a press conference here that he was not in favour of normalising relations with a country which was occupying thousands of square kilometres of Indian territory. Defending the Soviet "occupation" of Afghanistan, he said: "There is no problem in Afghanistan. The problem has been created by other powers. The Soviet troops will be withdrawn the day Pakistan and China withdraw their troops that surround Afghanistan," he stated. He congratulated the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, on making a success of the non-aligned summit. "She has enhanced the prestige of our country in the world." [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 20 Mar 83 p 3]

TRADE GAP REPORTED--New Delhi, March 19--Provisional figures for the first nine months of 1982-83 (April to December) show a trade gap of Rs. 4,060 crores. This is somewhat lower than Rs. 4,109 crores for the corresponding period of 1981-82. Exports during April-December 1982 totalled Rs. 6,118 crores (a growth of 15 per cent). The main items whose imports showed an increase in value terms were crude and petroleum products, machinery and semi-precious stones iron and steel, non-ferrous metals, chemicals and wheat. Exports of tea, cashew, cotton fabrics and jute manufacturers have shown stagnation in terms of quantity since 1977-78. Exports of sugar and cotton have been fluctuating depending on domestic production. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA 20 Mar 83 p 9]

SPACE PROJECT FINANCING--Bombay, March 16--Dr. Christoph Von Der Decken, Managing Director of the Dresdner Bank, Frankfurt (Federal Republic of Germany), told pressmen here today that his bank was providing finance to Ariane (Franco-German space project) which would be providing a rocket for the Indian Space Research Organisation. He said that they were likely to provide \$10 millions for the Franco-German consortium. Referring to the oil price reduction by the OPEC countries, he said this would help revive the economics not only of the industrialised countries but also of the developing ones. In reply to a question, Dr. Decken said the current payment problems should not be overdramatised. Of the total debt burden, 68 per cent was accounted for by 20 countries, and 40 per cent by just four debtor countries--Brazil, Mexico, South Korea and Argentina. Thus there was no third world debt problem in a general sense. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 17 Mar 83 p 7]

UPPER HOUSE GROUP--New Delhi, March 15--A new group of 22 members has emerged in the Rajya Sabha under the leadership of Mr. A. G. Kulkarni (Congress-S). The group called United Association of Members, has been permitted by the Chairman. The new group will not replace the Janata Party as the principal Opposition with 21 members which displaced the CPI(M) only yesterday. But the new group will be considered for the allocation of time for debates or discussions. To that extent, it has a limited purpose. The group comprises members of the Congress (S), National Conference, RSP, Forward Bloc, DSP, Janwadi, Muslim League, Independents and a nominated member. The decision of the DMK to join the new group is expected to be known tomorrow. If it does, the strength of the group will be 26. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 16 Mar 83 p 9]

SOVIET FRIENDSHIP TEAM--A Soviet friendship delegation, led by member of the Supreme Soviet and Minister of Finance of the Armenian SSR, Dzhanic Dzhonayan arrived in Delhi on Wednesday at the invitation of the Indo-Soviet Cultural Society (ISCUS), reports UNI. The delegation will take part in discussions regarding the strengthening of bilateral relations between the Soviet-Indian Friendship Society of the Armenian SSR and ISCUS. During the stay in the country, the Soviet delegation will visit Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Madras and other cities. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 17 Mar 83 p 8]

NEW URGUAYAN ENVOY--Uruguayan Ambassador Julio Lacarte Muro on Wednesday presented his credentials to President Zail Singh, reports UNI. Welcoming Mr Muro, Mr Zail Singh emphasised the need for cooperation between the two countries both at the economic and technological levels. "Such cooperation among nations has come to assume special significance in the cause of a peaceful international order." [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 17 Mar 83 p 8]

PAKISTAN NAVAL THREAT--New Delhi, March 18 (UNI)--India is taking "adequate measures" to neutralise the threat to the nation's security from the reported strengthening of the Pakistan navy, defence minister, Mr. R. Venkataraman, said in a written answer in the Lok Sabha. Replying to a question on Pakistan's deployment of bulk of its armed forces on the Indian border, minister of state for defence, Mr. K. P. Singh Deo, said the government continuously monitored all developments affecting the country's security and made adjustments to maintain full defence preparedness. Mr. Singh Deo said there had been a general shortage of officers in the three services, mostly at the junior levels. He informed Mr. C. Chinnaswamy that at present 488 army officers between the ranks of major and brigadier, 272 air force officers and 103 naval officers of equivalent ranks were working outside the respective services on deputation to various organisations contributing mostly to defence efforts. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 Mar 83 p 9]

NEW KERALA PARTY--Trivandrum, 21 Mar--A third political party of the Muslim community was formed at Palghat yesterday even as the two rival Muslim Leagues in the Kerala legislature were negotiating a reunion. The president of the new party "Muslim Democratic Party of India", is Mr. V. Moosa Musalier. Leaders of the party said they would reconsider their decision to form the new party if the two Muslim Leagues agreed to unite. The party claims to represent the Sunni sect of the Muslims. According to its leaders, the Sunnis form 97 per cent of the Muslim community. Leaders of the rival Muslim Leagues in the legislature said the new party would have no impact in the community. The ad hoc state council formed at Palghat has 140 members. An advisory committee composed of the pandits of the Sunni Muslims will guide the functioning of the new party. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 22 Mar 83 p 13]

KASHMIR CRIMINAL LAW--Jammu, March 10--The Jammu and Kashmir Government today assumed blanket powers to ban any political party, trade union or newspaper and arrest individuals for any "unlawful activity" when the State Assembly here today, before adjourning sie die, adopted the Jammu and Kashmir Criminal Law Amendment Bill 1983. This bill, according to the Law Minister, Mr. P. L. Handoo, was to replace the State Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance 1983. Earlier, the State Assembly adopted two other official Bills--the Jammu and Kashmir Prevention of Corruption Laws (amendment) Bill 1983 and the Jammu and Kashmir Public Men and Public Servants' Delcaration of Assets and other Provisions Bill 1983,--under which, according to the State Law Minister, it has been made obligatory for members of the State Legislature, Ministers and public servants to declare assets possessed by them and members of their family dependent on them within three months after becoming the same in the monty of January every year. He said failure to submit such returns would entail disqualification from being member and Minister. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 11 Mar 83 p 1]

WORLD BANK AID--Bombay, March 20--The World Bank will loan about Rs. 125 crores for the ambitious "Bombay Urban Development Project" (BUDP) aimed at saving the city from further decay. Under the project, slums, including the predominatly red light area of Kamathipura, will get a face-life and houses will be constructed for the poor. In the first phase of the project, 3,000 families will be provided with housing facilities in five-storey buildings expected to come up within the next three or four years, officials said. Surplus land, available after constructing buildings in the congested area, will be sold to higher-income group cooperatives in order to subsidise the poor man's housing. A World Bank team recently visited the area and went around other projects being coordinated by the Bombay Metropolitan Council Regional Development Authority (BMCRDA). The team is expected to come here again in July before submitting its plan to the board.--UNI. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 21 Mar 83 p 1]

CSO: 4600/1905

TEHRAN PAPER ON ATTACK AGAINST BEIRUT EMBASSY

LD242340 Tehran IRNA in English 1921 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Text] Tehran, 24 Apr, IRNA--The morning daily JOMHURI-YE ISLAMI [word indistinct] an editorial on the attack against the U.S. Embassy in Beirut.

Excerpts:

It may still be too soon to specifically introduce the persons or groups responsible for the explosion of the spy nest of the great criminal satan in Beirut. Although three almost unknown groups have claimed responsibility for the explosion, but there is still no reasonable proof to back these claims.

The Islamic Jihad organisation claimed responsibility for the explosion in a contact with the FRENCH NEWS AGENCY (AFP), only hours after the explosion. The 'Organisation for Vengeance of Sabra and Shatila Martyrs' claimed responsibility in a contact with the daily AN-NAHAR, one day after the explosion. And the Arab Socialist Unionist Organisation claimed responsibility in a contact with the leftist AS-SAFIR paper.

Even though the Islamic revolution of Iran is the only force which has inflicted the most fatal and destructive blow on the political identity and interests of the U.S. after the second World War, and though this revolution has eradicated the most important headquarters of the evil Central Intelligence Agency in the Middle East and has sent it into the trash bin of history, still these do not add up to a valid reason to blame the Islamic Republic for the retaliatory actions by the people against the aggressive and criminal policy of the U.S. Just because the Islamic Republic of Iran is the most serious and avowed enemy of the U.S., it cannot be blamed for all anti-American actions which have naturally risen around the world and the Islamic Republic cannot be attached to the operations of Islamic organisations around the world just because they are Islamic.

If the United States is interested in getting a clear answer for the question of who is responsible for the embassy explosion, it should seek to look into its own identity and seek to clarify the philosophy of its illegal and illegitimate presence in Lebanon rather than seeking to find the identity of those responsible for the explosion.

The U.S. does not want to face the fact that enmity towards its aggressive and expansionist policies is not limited to the revolutionary and Islamic society of Iran, but it is an outcry which has gradually spread all over the world.

The truth of the matter is that time for foolish games has come to an end, and at [word indistinct], the killing of Bashir al-Jumayyil and al-Sadat should have clearly signalled to the U.S. that Lebanon is an Islamic country and belongs to the world of Islam and its innocent Muslim people. The U.S. should have found out by now that no foreign power or agent can prevail on the fate of an Islamic country which is in the heart of the world of Islam. The catastrophe of Lebanon, which developed with the [word indistinct] of the assassination of the Israeli ambassador in Loneon and the massacre at Sabra and Shatila, [word indistinct] took place with the excuse of the killing of Bashir al-Jumayyil, proved to the people of the world that blaming the Islamic Republic for the U.S. Embassy is just another effort to prepare the grounds for new conspiracies in the region, of course if the people of the region would give the great satan a chance.

CSO: 4600/573

EMIGRE PAPER BLASTS TUDEH PARTY FOR POLITICAL HYPOCRISY

Paris NEHZAT in Persian 24 Mar 83 pp 1, 2, 3

[Text] That one is a lion in the desert
That other one is a lion in the desert
That one eats as men do
That other one eats men
Jalal ol-Din

After the arrest of the leaders of the KGB's Tudeh party in Iran by officials of the Islamic Republic, and with help from the aforementioned organization's opposition faction in the regime, the organization's central committee issued a statement on 7 February 1983 in which it acknowledged the arrest of its leaders.

Much has been said and written with respect to this, of course, by various experts and from different perspectives. For us, however, the statement was an exemplary illustration of the difference between our view of independence and theirs. The statement says: They arrested our friends on the sixth of February on charges of spying and forging documents. Yet such accusations have come from "the arsenal of the opponents and enemies of scientific socialism" which has always been used against the forces that fight for "independence and freedom."

One is left wondering in amazement how it is that Imam Khomeyni is fighting to achieve independence and freedom, as well as Kianuri and his opponents! One asks in astonishment how it is that one day Kianuri, Khomeyni, and others are united in bearing the standard of Iranian independence, and are at each other's throats the next day, each accusing the other of being against freedom and independence, or attributing their problems to instigation from elements opposed to independence and freedom. The mind reels with these questions. What is this "independence," which everyone loves and respects so much, and whose enemy or enemies they so condemn?

The state of the KGB party (the Tudeh of Iran) says:

"The essential solidarity of the Tudeh Party of Iran...with the nations in the socialist camp under the leadership of the Soviet Socialist Republics cannot be changed with such vain accusations and fabricated slander...."

Do you see? If an "Iranian" political party should be in "solidarity" with the nations in the socialist camp, and consequently be dependent on the leadership of this camp, which is to say the Soviet Union, then of course it is a defender of Iranian freedom and independence, and such an affiliated element seeks "independence." If, however, a regime which supports political non-alignment, for example, should be discussed, it is liberal, against independence, and affiliated with imperialism led by America!

To them, "independence" is conditioned by the dependence of nations on the polarized power of their masters, even if a single dictator with citizenship in that country imposes this affiliation on the people and everyone in the country is opposed to them. To us, independence is based on the condition that a nation's foreign policy be drawn up and approved by the people themselves; it is unthinkable that any nation would unanimously approve of dependence on any other power.

They think that Afghanistan and Poland, with all their dependence and their struggles for the liberation of their nations, are "independent" nations; they think the relentless struggle of the Afghan nation for release from dependence is caused by "imperialist instigation"; they think the united struggle of the Polish nation against the self-serving military regime which has control over it is a manifestation of narrow-minded nationalistic tendencies and Western liberalism.

We think such pervasive movements in these countries is caused by the natural aspirations of the nations of Afghanistan and Poland for independence and for release from those who would impose dependence on them.

They regard the separation of Azarbaijan from Iranian territory and the joining of it to its Soviet "Azarbaijani brothers" as the equivalent of liberation for the "nation of Azarbaijan." We regard the perpetual attachment of the soil and the people of Azarbaijan to Iran, which is their place of origin and their natural, national, and historical homeland, as independence.

They regard independence as the incorporation of various territories into their world-inclusive ideological axis.

The independence we know and desire is an independence which connects the life of every nation of the world with each one's special identity which has been established by history over long periods of time.

They slice up and divide the lands of the earth as if it were a cake; they construct the political geography of the world at conferences like the Yalta conference, and then they talk about rights and independence for these segmented entities.

We apply the term "country" only to those entities which are formed on the basis of the cultures and histories of nations; we see independence in the restoration of wholeness and cohesion for their peoples and lands.

9310
CSO: 4640/169

TRIAL OF TUDEH LEADERS, CLASHES IN NORTHERN JUNGLES DISCUSSED

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 23 Mar 83 p 9

[Text] In an exclusive interview with our correspondent, Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi Tabrizi, Chief Revolutionary Prosecutor, answered questions concerning the trial of the arrested leaders of the Tudeh Party, recent clashes in the jungles of Tavalesh and Amol, the problem of unveiled ladies, and the campaign against smugglers of currency, carpets, and gold bullion.

At the beginning of the interview the Chief Revolutionary Prosecutor discussed the activities of this Prosecutor's Office in the coming year. He said: I do not think there will be a new program next year for the Islamic Revolutionary courts and prosecutors' offices.

The Imam's eight-point decree had a good effect on the revolutionary courts and prosecutors' offices, because the revolutionary prosecutors and courts turned to their fundamental and real responsibility, which is to campaign against the counterrevolution, assassinations, sabotage, bombings, and the embezzlement of public funds for personal use.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Tabrizi then mentioned the removal of currency from the country and the smuggling of carpets and gold bullion. He said: One form of sabotage in our country is the removal of currency from the country; economic terrorists engage in this practice, removing enormous amounts of currency from the country, sometimes a million dollars, sometimes \$500,000, or sometimes \$100,000.

In the year 1360 [1981-1982] we dealt with this matter; after the Imam's eight-point decree was issued saying that the Supreme Court must make a decision on this matter, the Supreme Court ruled on it and now the revolutionary courts and prosecutors deal with crimes that have to do with the removal of currency from the country, whether in Tehran or in the municipalities.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi Tabrizi then said concerning the smuggling of carpets: Carpet smugglers and corrupt individuals undermine carpet exporting and have thereby removed currency from the country.

The Chief Revolutionary Prosecutor continued: A decision was made in the Supreme Court that the revolutionary prosecutors and courts would deal with this, and planning has been done with regard to this matter.

Campaign Against Minigroups

Concerning the minigroups, Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi Tabrizi said: A series of systematic intelligence operations has been planned; they have begun in Tehran, and, God willing, we will put this program into operation in the municipalities as well.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi Tabrizi was asked: It appears that the minigroups have recently begun struggling in the throes of death. What is your view of this?

He answered: Militarily, politically, and socially, they have been annihilated at the international level; they have begun to fight each other. The groups no longer accept one another. On the same subject, the Chief Prosecutor added: At sensitive times, the minigroups had plots and plans, but before the plots could be carried out, knowledge of them very quickly fell into the hands of the nation of partisans of God, and they were prevented from carrying out their evil plots.

During this very New Year's celebration period, they tried to carry out operations disguised as Hajji Firuz. Once again, knowledge of this was obtained, it was prevented, and several people participating in this plot were arrested.

Confronting Smugglers of Currency, Carpet, and Gold

The Chief Prosecutor was asked how smugglers of currency, carpets, and gold bullion would be confronted.

He answered: These people will be dealt with according to the procedures in the revolutionary courts, and in accordance with the regulations that govern the revolutionary courts. Financial crimes will be punished by long prison terms and confiscation of property. If someone obtains something illegally, however, and he is affiliated with the counterrevolution inside or outside the country, it is automatically possible that the severe punishment of a hostile enemy, which is death, will be given to him.

The People Like the Islamic Republic

Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi Tabrizi was asked: What advice do you have for the new year for the heroic, wholehearted people of Iran? He answered: The eight-point decree was like a raining of mercy upon the earth, which was greatly in need of watering. This rain has fallen, the people have found security, organizations have become systematized, and opponents have been prosecuted. All of these things are for the people's comfort.

He said: The people must stop these profiteers themselves. The people now know that most families have given martyrs; they like and accept the Islamic Republic and are making sacrifices for it.

Partisans of God Do Not Accept Unveiled Women

He said: An unveiled woman who comes out with poor appearance is in practice like a sign that someone takes and writes on it "death to the Islamic revolution." Therefore, an unveiled woman who shows her hair is just like a written statement: death to the Islamic revolution.

The nation of partisans of God do not accept this; the people are giving their answer, and if they tolerate it for a day, a month, or two months, they will tolerate it no longer.

These people do not want their streets to become as they were during the Shah's regime.

Our advice is that whoever is not aware of this problem should take a good look at it and make them show respect for the aspirations of the Islamic Republic. Those who are disturbed and affected by the fact that sin is being committed in the streets must give guidance to them; these people must be confronted properly.

The Chief Islamic Revolutionary Prosecutor added: Those who are obviously fornicating and sinning will definitely be tried and punished, and the respected religious magistrates will impose sentences on them. Ultimately, it is clear that the people are very important in this regard.

The Issue of Tudeh Leaders

Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi Tabrizi was asked: Please give the charges, which have not yet been mentioned, against the Tudeh leaders, their confessions under interrogation, and the names of all the people of this party who have been arrested, and explain fully, and in view of the confessions that the party's leaders have made, will others be arrested in the same connection or not? He answered.

I will not answer any of those questions now, because it is not proper; their files are still being compiled. They have made good confessions regarding their crimes, and good evidence has been obtained.

Their crimes were espionage and sabotage. Those who took part in these crimes have been arrested; some, who were not thought to be the ones involved, have been released. There are a number of people whose names you now know. They will be tried publicly so that the crimes they committed will become clear.

There is no doubt that these people had taken steps to overthrow the Islamic Republic, which is to say, to overthrow Islam. At the present time, however, the method of overthrow, whether it was to be armed or not, and the time it was to have taken place, cannot be discussed.

Recent Clashes in the Amol Jungles

Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi Tabrizi was asked: There have been clashes recently in the Amol jungles, and six brave brothers of the Guards of Islam have reached the high station of martyrdom. Were these people the remnants of the Communist Union?

He answered: Yes, they were members of the Communist Union. Several of them went to Hell, and all of their weapons and ammunition fell into the hands of the brothers in the Guards.

Of course, several of them, a very small number of around seven or eight, fled, and the brothers are pursuing them. The brothers are now engaged in clearing the jungles.

Clashes in the Tavalesh Jungles

Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi Tabrizi, Chief Revolutionary Prosecutor, was asked about clashes with the "hypocrites" in the jungles of Tavalesh.

He said: They were able to perform acts of sabotage in the city; about a month ago they came and assassinated two people in their homes and left. Our brothers now have control over the city. Several members of the aforementioned minigroup have fled to the jungles; they aren't in any special place, and in fact they are wandering in the jungles.

9310
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WOMEN'S 4-DAY SEMINAR ENDS, ISSUES RESOLUTION

Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 9 Apr 83 p 12

[Text] News section: The fourth day of the seminar on women from the Islamic perspective continued with an analysis of the important role of women in education and heredity on Thursday morning at Al-Zahra University, with the participation of a large group of the revolutionary Muslim sisters of Tehran and the provinces and in the presence of several religious personalities.

According to a report by the correspondent of the IRNA, the seventh meeting of this seminar began with recitations from the Koran. Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Jamaloddin Dinparvar, the head of political-ideological training of the Guards Corps and Hojjat ol-Eslam Zeyn ol-'Abedin Qorbani, the Friday imam of Lahijan, spoke about the laws and precepts concerning the teaching and training of women and their role in education and heredity from the Islamic perspective.

According to this report, Hojjat ol-Eslam Dinparvar said in his speech concerning the laws and precepts involving the education of women from an Islamic viewpoint: In regards to the learning of various sciences, including divine and natural sciences, there are no restrictions in Islam for women. Women can be active in learning sciences which are needed by the Islamic society as much as their time and ability allows and they can engage in research and writing. He also said: In the past, some people tried to threaten the rule and authority of Islam and replace the Islamic culture with another culture by forging the Islamic issues and in this way, they had placed certain restrictions on the education of women. In another part of his speech, Hojjat ol-Eslam Dinparvar said: In the history of Islam, the issue of the education of women, especially the honorable daughter of the exalted prophet of Islam, was given special importance. The large number of Muslim female personalities who achieved the height of faith, science and spirituality nurtured by Islam shows

the deep attention of the human-building school of Islam to education.

The report also indicates that Hojjat ol-Eslam Zeyn ol-'Abedin Qorbani, the Friday imam of Lahijan, explained the role of women in heredity and education. He said: Since many of the characteristics and the outward makeup of people is transferred to their children through heredity, women and men must be careful in all aspects. In this regard, the role of women in transferring characteristics, morals and education as well as giving personality to children is greater than that of men. This issue has been emphasized and has been proven both scientifically and has also come to us through numerous traditions. In another part of his speech, he considered one of the factors in heredity as nutrition and added: Since food affects food affects the physical and spiritual structure, attention to this issue is important throughout life, particularly during the mother's pregnancy. The Friday imam of Lahijan pointed out: Unfortunately, a number of mothers do not pay sufficient attention to this issue and try to raise their children on powdered milk without knowing that the characteristics and heredity of the mother are transferred to children through nourishment.

In another part of his speech, Hojjat ol-Eslam Qorbani emphasized the valuable role of women in the education and shaping of the future characters of the children and asked the Muslim women to constantly bear in mind this grave responsibility and not to forget their constructive role. According to the IRNA correspondent, the seventh session of this seminar ended Thursday noon in praising the Muslim women of Iran who have played a deserving role in the victory and continuation of the magnificent Islamic revolution with their sacrifice and perseverance and also the education of their competent children.

The Last Day of the Seminar

The fourth and last day of the seminar on women from an Islamic perspective, which was arranged by the organization for Islamic propaganda at Al-Zahra University, completed its work with two round table discussions. The first round table discussion concerned the role of the courts in supporting family rights. In this discussion, first, the duties and responsibilities of special civil courts were analyzed and then the function and effects of these courts in supporting family rights were discussed in detail.

In the second round table discussion, which concerned the half time work of women and in which Sisters Behruzi and Raja'i, representatives of the Majlis, participated, first, a report from the legal committee of the Majlis was presented by Sister

Behruzi. Then the issue of the half time service of women was discussed. At the end of this session, a 12-article resolution was read, part of which follows:

We Muslim women consider her holiness Fatemeh Zahra (peace be upon her), who offered humanity the greatest spiritual legacy with her simple life in a small house, as the only model for women, and we fight against both Eastern and Western forms which are manifestations of heathenism and dualism and struggle most seriously against them.

In another part of this resolution, while renewing their support for the imam, they say:

We consider the Islamic cover a sacred and divine gift for the protection of the personality of women and the cleanliness of the society and ask the authorities of the Islamic Republic to use all their resources and authority to enforce veiling through warnings, guidance, explanations and, ultimately, the imposition of legal force. In another part of this resolution, the honorable authorities of higher education are asked to provide more resources for the education of the sisters in fields such as medicine, nursing, midwifery, and teacher training. Also, supporting the official anti-narcotics and prohibition stance as well as the courts for guild-related affairs, they were asked to continue their unending struggle to eliminate narcotics and economic terrorism as well as prevent the production and distribution of corrupting tapes. In this resolution, in addition to honoring the martyrdom of Bent ol-Hoda Sadr and supporting the revolutionary and oppressed women of all the societies of the world, we read: It is only in the shadow of Islam that women can be liberated from slavery, injustice and lack of identity.

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CSO: 4640/177

IRP ORGAN: 15-YEAR PERIOD NECESSARY FOR REVIVAL

Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 9 Apr 83

[Text] In the name of God the compassionate and the merciful.

For a revolution called the "Islamic revolution" and a regime called the "Islamic Republic," it is most unbecoming to have grown five years old without having been able to strike a deadly blow against the savage monster of economic injustice. No matter how, we must bring this sinister monster to its knees this year.

We have not forgotten that our beloved imam announced when he entered Iran that the destruction left behind by the shah and the shah's unjust regime was so great that it would take at least five years to mend. This exact statement has been made by the imam several times and the authorities constantly emphasize it. Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i, the president, last week in his visit with the tribes and the officials of the institutions and the families of the Islamic martyrs, referring to the issue of the elimination of deprivations and oppression in the society, said: "We do not expect to achieve this goal in the short term, but it can be done in the long term." This statement also indicates the reality that the deprivations remaining from the unjust period of the shah cannot be eliminated in the short term.

Along with this undeniable truth, we must also note that the issue of ending the destruction remaining from the shah's unjust regime in this country will be met 15 years after the victory of the revolution. This means that during this period, we must decrease the level of ruination by at least 15 percent. Every year, we must cut one of the arteries of this savage monster in order to have cut the 15th artery by the 15th year. Has this policy been followed exactly so far?

No one can deny the reality that the Islamic revolution has thus far hit the monster of economic injustice squarely on the jaw. And no one can deny that the Islamic revolution has paid much attention to the oppressed villages and outlying, needy provinces. The road construction, water outreach, electricity

outreach and school construction which have been carried out in the course of the four years since the victory of the revolution in the various parts of the country are more than several times the work done in similar areas during the dark course of the Pahlavi period. This fact cannot be denied and when the people are told about the economic services, this fact must also be mentioned. Certainly, attention must be paid to the point that these services have been a great boon towards the elimination of deprivation and putting an end to the infamous life of the sinister monster of economic injustice, particularly given the situation of the Islamic revolution being surrounded by the various conspiracies of global oppression.

Nevertheless, other bitter realities which have appeared during these years and have embittered the sweet taste of success in economic areas for the originators of the revolution must not be ignored.

Our people are happy that the Islamic revolution has been able to build roads for villagers, to provide those who had nothing but misery during the shah's unjust regime with water and electricity and to build schools, mosques and clinics for them. But, on the other hand, they are also worried that a group of greedy profiteers have filled their bags by taking advantage of the Islamic kindness of the authorities and the open and free arena which the revolution has brought about in the course of the past years, through tricks such as hoarding, price hiking and short-selling. While they continue this ignoble profession, the people question why while their young people are being dragged into blood and soil such-and-such a profiteer should be buying black veil material for 1,900 rials and selling it for 14,000 rials, or why a hoarder should hide the goods needed by the people only to sell them for 10 times the price at whatever time and place that he chooses, in accordance with his own methods and to whomever he wants, or why a price hiker who buys apples for 50 rials a kilo should sell them for 250 rials per kilo.

It is clear that the smoke from the fire of conspiracy and corruption burns the eyes of the oppressed people. The followers of Satan who use even the decree of the imam as an excuse to remove one centimeter of their veils, are not basically the kind to want black veils, so when the price goes up, they do not suffer. For the comfortable class whose savings, that is, the blood of the people they have sucked, will provide for their next seven generations, it makes no difference whether apples are 250 rials or 2,500 rials per kilo. They have special relations with the hoarders and can find "rare" goods very easily. They never feel the shortages. It is true that the people tolerate the high prices for the sake of the revolution and each time they go more determinedly to the ballot boxes to shake their fists more violently at the United States and its domestic agents, including

the hoarders and profiteers who are the fifth column of the enemy and to tell them that their cooperation with the United States in economic areas cannot make us disappointed in the revolution; but, should these people not be aided in their struggle against the economic terrorists? Now, since the people support the revolution to such an extent, should the revolution not put more effort and perseverance into eliminating the filthy phenomenon of hoarding and price hiking and stopping the hands of the economic terrorists who are now, since the crushing defeat of other terrorists, engaged in serving their common master the Great Satan?

Before the important New Year message of the imam, who raised the issue of palace-dwelling versus ghetto-dwelling and who sent a warning to the hoarders and profiteers, an atmosphere had been created in which anyone who supported the downtrodden through his pen or orally and complained about economic terrorists was accused of having leftist ideas. If they were unable to accuse someone of being a leftist, they would say that his proposals were impractical!

Fortunately, the spring of 1983 began with the pounding statements of the imam which broke this false atmosphere and paved the way for the entrance of the authorities on the scene to fight economic terrorism. Such an atmosphere presents the danger that all of us, in pretending to be of the same mind as the imam, may be drowned in the whirlpool of slogans and by the end of this year, we would still only be at a bend in the road. For this reason, the authorities must realize that now is the "time for action" and they should not pass up the opportunity. If the authorities begin to act and fight decisively the existing economic injustice, which is one of the sinister legacies of the shah's regime, there will be no chance left for one or another person to come up with slogans.

One very important point is that we recognize who is responsible. Is the judicial branch responsible for fighting hoarding, price hiking and other forms of profiteering or are there others as well who are responsible? Let us witness the imam's response. In the first paragraph of his 1 April message, the imam said: "The unjust overpricers and hoarders should not think that their unjust acts at the present time are no different than in other times. Today, the kind of crime which might result in the failure of the Islamic Republic is considered an attempt to weaken Islam. I fear that Almighty God will show His wrath towards you and, God forbid, the good and the bad will be burned together and there will be no way of escape. (I take refuge unto God from His forbearing wrath.) It would be better for the honorable bazaar merchants who are the active pillars of the Islamic society to neutralize the conspiracies of these unjust people who are a stain on their reputations through wise

decisions." Therefore, the imam's response is that first of all, that group of bazaar merchants who have always cooperated with the revolution and who consider the hoarders and price hikers as a blot against their reputations should accept the responsibility for fighting these unjust people. Naturally, the judicial branch will also support any sort of proper movement to uproot hoarding and price hiking. The bazaar merchants are expected to respond as quickly as possible to this call of the leader of the Islamic revolution.

It is hoped that this holy movement will start as soon as possible and that, as Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said in the Tehran Friday prayer yesterday, during this new year, the period 21 March 1983-20 March 1984, an end shall be put to this corruption. Last week, the Supreme Judicial Council took a positive step in support of the oppressed by putting a stop to the eviction rulings in the case of hardship or sin. It is hoped that during the new year, along with such practical steps, we will progress and that in all instances action will take the place of slogans. If so, certainly during this new year the sinister monster of economic injustice shall be destroyed.

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NEPAL

BRIEFS

AUSTRALIAN GRANT--Australia is to provide Nepal a grant of about 26.2 million rupees 1,943,000 Australian dollars for transferring airways facilities from the existing terminal building to the new one scheduled to be constructed at Tribhuvan International Airport. The two countries signed a memorandum of understanding to this effect the other day, said Finance Ministry here Tuesday. Under it, the Australian Government will also make available the services of experts, training facilities to the Nepali staff, equipment and design specifications for the execution of the project. His Majesty's Government will meet the local cost. The project is expected to complete by 1987. According to the Finance Ministry, the memorandum of understanding was initialled by Finance Secretary Karna Dhoj Adhikari and Australian Envoy G. N. Upton. [BK190610 Katmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 6 Apr 83 p 1]

CSO: 4600/571

SUGGESTION THAT PAKISTAN HOLD DIRECT TALKS WITH AFGHANISTAN CRITICIZED

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 22 Mar 83 p 3

[Editorial: "His Master's Voice"]

[Text] The leader of the defunct and nominal Frontier For Freedom Party, Mehraj Mohammad Khan, has said that the Government of Pakistan should hold direct talks with the Afghan Government and the Soviet Union regarding the problem of Afghanistan. This is the stand of the Karmal administration established as a result of Soviet military intervention. If we examine the Afghan issue from Pakistan's national viewpoint, Mehraj Mohammad Khan's suggestion appears meaningless and unfounded. As far as a dialogue on the problem of Afghanistan is concerned, first it should be decided what the problem of Afghanistan is on which Pakistan can hold talks. One problem is the presence of the Soviet Army in Afghanistan and the Afghans are fighting against this foreign military intervention in defense of their national freedom. There is also fighting among the Afghans regarding this problem. A few Afghans and especially the Afghan Army, in support of the foreign army, are openly killing their own countrymen. Pakistan's role in this regard can only be to side with world public opinion in condemning the military intervention of a big power in the internal affairs of a weak country; Pakistan is already doing this and doing it from every platform of the United Nations. Pakistan's role in this matter can only be the same as being part of the universal family. Pakistan should perform this role only by cooperating with the entire universal family and not by splitting off from it. Pakistan is not a great power that can by force bar improper military intervention of a wrong-doing superpower in Afghanistan. In this regard, therefore, why should Pakistan alone hold a direct dialogue with the Soviet Union or the Afghan Government? Why should not Cuba or India do it? Why doesn't Mehraj Mohammad Khan leave this demand or suggestion for the governments of other countries? Actually, this demand should not be made to Pakistan as distinct from others. Instead, the demand should be that influential countries join together to hold direct talks with the Soviet Union, and they should put pressure on it to remove its forces from Afghanistan. Pakistan, too, can be expected to participate in any such joint effort. Nevertheless, we do agree with Megraj Mohammad Khan's suggestion that the dialogue should be held directly with the Soviet Union, because the real enemy is the Soviet Union that started the aggression and morally the pressure should be put on it alone. As far as Babrak Karmal is concerned, his position, too, should be understood. He is the Soviet viceroy in the Soviet-occupied Afghanistan. He is not the ruler of an independent Afghanistan.

Outside the frontiers of Afghanistan, one aspect of this problem, however, is such that it has the greatest connection with Pakistan, and that is that as a result of Afghanistan's tense internal situation, hundreds of thousands of people have migrated to Pakistan. Pakistan has given them refuge merely out of human sympathy, but it is clear that Pakistan is not their country and being a host cannot be prolonged indefinitely. They should return to their country, but how can they? Pakistan cannot force them because driving them back by force and compulsion means that Pakistan would fight them in support of the Soviet Union and its viceroy, Babrak Karmal, and drag Afghanistan's internal war inside our own borders. Pakistan's stand can only be to convince the Afghan people within Afghanistan and reach a settlement with them--the problem of Afghanistan should be resolved politically and the conditions should be made favorable by stopping military action. The Afghan people should not be put under a power by force. The sermon of this stand also was given to us by Soviet President Podgornyy in 1971. This was the very advice he gave Yahya Khan. If the situation in Afghanistan now is exactly the same and the Soviet military action there is more meaningless and groundless than Pakistan's military action in East Pakistan, why and under what basis can that very advice be incorrect for the Soviet Union and the Soviet-established government in Afghanistan?

In this regard, therefore, any proposal to hold a dialogue should be made to the Soviet Union or the Soviet viceroy, Babrak Karmal. This dialogue should be held with the Afghan refugees, Mujahidin and the Afghan people. Pakistan cannot be a direct party to this dialogue. However, if necessary Pakistan can also participate in the discussion for the return of Afghans now in Pakistan. But in this connection, to demand that Pakistan talk with the Afghan Government, i.e., Babrak Karmal's administration, is in no way lawful; since the agreement and decision should really be made with those refugees who have to return to their homeland. If the refugees do not accept Babrak Karmal's administration, or if his administration is not prepared to sit at the negotiating table with representatives of the refugees, how can the problem be resolved by Pakistan's talks with Babrak Karmal's administration? This will not resolve the problem; instead, the Afghan refugees now within our borders will criticize us on the grounds that for those whom we do not accept or those who are not prepared to accept us as a party to settle the dispute, the Pakistan Government has no right to talk on their behalf, would they be bound by any agreement reached between Babrak Karmal and the Pakistani Government. The meaning of this once again will be that we will drag Afghanistan's internal war over Pakistan's borders.

Under these circumstances, therefore, how can we accept Mehraj Mohammad Khan's suggestion that the Government of Pakistan hold a direct dialogue with the Afghan Government? Can this be the proposal or thought of any wise and sensible Pakistani? This appears to be entirely the words of "his master's voice" by some Soviet agent.

9779
CSO: 4656/135

INDIA'S STAND ON KASHMIR ISSUE CRITICIZED

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 22 Mar 83 p 3

[Editorial: "India's Stand On Kashmir Issue"]

[Text] The Indian ambassador to Pakistan, Kirshna D. Sharma, has said that taking the Kashmir issue to the forums of the United Nations can help in terms of propaganda, but resolving the problem is difficult. There should be a quiet dialogue under the terms of the Simla Agreement, at ambassadorial level, on this problem.

After the experience of the last 10 years, it can only be said that whatever the Indian ambassador said is wrong and unfounded. Pakistan does not wish to needlessly internationalize the Kashmir issue. After trying for 26 years to have the problem resolved through the United Nations, Pakistan has also seen what happened by agreeing to India's stand that this issue should not be taken to the United Nations but instead should be resolved through bilateral talks. This matter was also settled in the Simla Agreement, but almost 10 years have passed since this agreement, too. In these 10 years, no talks whatsoever could be initiated on this issue. If any talks were started, the Indian prime minister right from the outset refused to admit that there was any conflict on the Kashmir issue, and recently it was said that the real problem is that Pakistan has taken forced control of one part of Kashmir. In this way, therefore, under the pretext of the Simla Agreement, an effort was made to close the Kashmir issue from the Pakistani viewpoint and put it on a new course according to the Indian viewpoint. Under these circumstances, Pakistan now has no alternative but to refer this problem once again to the United Nations, because the aim of the Simla Agreement was to resolve the issue and not forget it.

Also with regard to the Simla Agreement, we wish to bring to the attention of the Indian ambassador the impression of the Pakistani people and not the Pakistani Government. It would be better if he makes his government aware of the fact that this agreement was made at a time when the two parties to the agreement were not of equal status. Ninety thousand Pakistani prisoners were under the immoral control of India. Pakistan's position, therefore, was that of a helpless party to this agreement, and an agreement made on the basis of forcing someone to agree to a few things by taking advantage of their helplessness, no matter how strong its legal status is, has a very weak moral status. Finally, the legal status of such agreements also becomes weaker and weaker with the passing of time. The Indian ambassador should keep this principle in mind.

PAKISTAN DAY RAISES CANDID QUESTIONS ON STATE OF NATION

Karachi AMN in Urdu 23 Mar 83 p 2

[Article by Juma Khan: "A straightforward Talk With the Nation Celebrating Pakistan Day; Pakistan Was Founded To Safeguard the Islamic, Political and Economic Rights of Muslims; We Must Contemplate Today How We Can Awaken the National Zeal"]

[Excerpts] Today, Pakistan Day is being celebrated throughout the country. It is not necessary to wonder why this day is celebrated. Many people celebrate it as a holiday. Those who can afford to will read something about the significance of this day from the newspapers. They will listen to something on the radio and watch something on the television, but the common people are not particularly affected by any national holiday. Whether it is a religious or a national holiday, no effort is made to understand its meaning and many people of the new generation do not know much about Pakistan. Wordly attractions and daily activities have killed their enthusiasm for national history. Interest in the religious history, too, has diminished. Whatever happens is merely for outward show, with no lasting impact.

The Muslims of the subcontinent were promised that Pakistan would be made a welfare state. Today however it is openly said that God is the Provider of food, clothing and shelter; the state is not responsible for this. The founders of Pakistan had said that they would provide respectable employment, but today, for the sake of nominal savings, thousands of employees are being dismissed from official and semiofficial institutions. Our own rulers have imposed more political persecution on their free people and political opponents than was inflicted by the British on a slave nation.

Our national leaders promised that everyone would be given political and economic rights without distinction. Today, those who demand political and economic rights are sent to jail or put under house arrest. The Muslims were given the wrong impression that every person would attain democratic freedoms in the Islamic democracy of Pakistan, but today, to demand democratic freedoms is a crime. Political parties have been abolished. The army rules. Not even an appeal can be made in the Supreme Court of the Shariat Court against the decision of the military court. Quaid-e Azam and his colleagues, during their democratic era, bore newspapers' criticism with smiles. Today, however, an ordinary officer with his administrative order can halt the publication of

any newspaper without court or cabinet approval. He can stop the supply of paper used by newspaper and he can also stop its official advertisements. There is no one to listen to the complaint or to investigate.

The respected scholars had promised that they would make Pakistan an Islamic state in which Islam would have the upper hand and nothing would be against the Shariat. Nevertheless, in 35 years they have been unable to either enforce Islam or mould people into true Muslims. Their sermons and teachings have resulted in an increase in the amount for bribes. Smuggling has become common. Mansions have been erected through fraud. Corruption has been declared lawful and ministers have been bold enough to say, how can bribery be eradicated when people give bribes.

Today, that zeal with which Pakistan was founded remains no more. The nation is already divided. The army has become the ruler and the administration its assistant. The judiciary has become powerless. Newspapers have been chained. One person is a Punjabi, another a Sindi, a Baluchi, or a Pathan or calls himself a refugee. Talking about politics is a sin. The army rulers openly say that they will rule for another 2 or 3 years. The respected scholars, instead of making people true Muslims, are turning them into Sunnis and Shiites. They are creating divisions of Dev Bandi and Braili. They do not teach that a Muslim is forbidden to shed the blood of another Muslim. People are provoked into sectarianism and there is a sense of pride in making one Muslim the life-enemy of another Muslim. We have forgotten God's commandments, the Holy Koran and the teachings of the Holy Prophet. In fact, we have even forgotten the objective of Pakistan and our destiny.

When Pakistan was being established, no Muslim politician, religious scholar or general could even conceive that the sun of democracy would set even for a single day. A Muslim, by being involved in the insanity of sectarianism, can be bold enough to inflict loss of life and wealth, and the army, by taking control of power again and again, will continue to postpone elections by making one excuse or another.

Whatever happened is behind us, and today, while celebrating Pakistan Day, we must contemplate how can we become a living nation, awaken the national spirit and restore the honor of the country and the nation.

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AID PLEDGE BY U.S. REPORTED; BALUCHISTAN GIVEN SPECIAL EMPHASIS

Karachi DAWN in English 9 Apr 83 p 10

[Text] QUETTA, April 8: One point six (1.6) billion dollars financial assistance has been pledged for economic development of Pakistan over a period of five years, commencing from the calendar year 1984 by the United States Agency for International Development.

This was stated in an interview here last evening by Mr Jaimmie Stone, Deputy Chief of USAID mission in Pakistan, who is currently on a tour of Baluchistan. Aid Package, he said, would cover di-

versified sectors of economy like water resources management, improvement of agriculture, livestock, road communication, rural electrification and training of manpower.

He said that the province of Baluchistan would expectedly been fit from these country programmes to the level of more than 25 per cent and have an annual aid inflow of eight million dollars. In addition to these national programmes, a sum of 30 to 40 million dollars, he added, had been set apart

for special projects in Baluchistan which would be implemented in Mekran division.

Mr Stone, who along with Dr Kjiki Curtis and some other USAID officials has already visited Gwadar, Turbat and Panjgur to make on-the-spot assessment of development needs of the region also held detailed discussions with Additional Chief Secretary (Development) Mr S.R. Poonegar, and other senior officials of the Provincial Government in Quetta with a view

to identifying agreeable project portfolios for USAID financing.

Mr Stone said that USAID mission would be able to present project identification documents to their headquarters in Washington within next two months for broader conceptual clearance of Baluchistan area development project and expressed the hope that allied details essential for elaborating the project design would be firmed up by the end of December, 1983.

CSO: 4600/550

JAMAT-E ISLAMI LEADER ATTACKS PPP MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATION

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 26 Feb 83 p 4

[Report by Riaz Shahid: "Maulana Abbasi, Addressing a Large Gathering of Tahrik-e Islami in Khairpur, Said in PP [People's Party] Only Bhutto Family Is Against the Present Government, the Others Are All Worshippers of Power"]

[Text] Maulana Jan Mohammad Abbasi, deputy leader of Tahrik-e Islami Pakistan, last month visited Nawab Shah and Khairpur districts. He also went to different villages and addressed workers of Tahrik-e Islami and the people and inquired about their problems. During this visit, Maulana Jan Mohammad Abbasi also talked with news correspondents and exchanged views on the country's internal and external problems and the gradually worsening law and order situation in Sind. In various gatherings that Maulana Abbasi addressed, he expressed concern over the fact that although martial law has been in force for the last 5 and 1/2 years, there has been no apparent progress in introducing an Islamic system nor are the people's problems being solved. At the end of his comprehensive tour of Nawab Shah and Khairpur districts, Maulana Abbasi addressed a large gathering of Tahrik-e Islami. He said that after the government of the defunct People's Party announced that it would hold general elections in 1977, the alliance formed by nine large parties in the country perturbed the defunct People's Party, which tried to win elections by misusing its power, using force and threats and cheating. During elections, it broke all previous records in this respect. Maulana Abbasi said that this created a serious crisis throughout the country and a struggle between the people and the government began. People came out into the streets demanding the formation of an Islamic administration. The former rulers tried to suppress the people's struggle by using every possible means in their power--batons, guns, police, FSF [Federal Security Forces] and even the army.

Maulana Abbasi said that the present government in hanging Bhutto appears to have adopted the attitude that he was solely responsible for all the crimes, cheating, bribery and corruption rampant in the former government and that others in the People's Party were clean and lived models of honesty. He said that the people who gained much property for themselves and made profits in Bhutto's regime are busy praising the present government. In the People's Party, with the exception of Bhutto's family, which is against the present government, the others are self-seekers who have been worshippers of power and even today have gathered together under the protective umbrella of martial law to busily engage in securing benefits.

Maulana Abbasi said that if general elections were announced today, these same people would come before the people saying that they were custodians of the People's Party and that they were oppressed people themselves. Maulana Abbasi said that, unfortunately, since the very first day Pakistan was formed there has been a very close link between the bureaucracy and landowners and these two groups have been exploiting the people from the start. People holding high positions and high posts in the ministries 20 years ago seem still to be in power today and even their children in the political field are perturbed by the problems and difficulties facing the poor people. Maulana Abbasi added that the leadership of the middle class has never been given an opportunity to advance.

Maulana Abbasi said that the government is expressing apprehension that if elections are held positive results would not be forthcoming, and government circles explain this by saying that the People's Party will come into power as a result of elections. We ask who is ruling the country today. Even today the People's Party, though not elected, is ruling the country side by side with the bureaucracy. He said that the defunct People's Party and martial law are on the very best of terms. Leading members of the PPP have been influenced by martial law from the beginning, because their party, when it was elected, took control in the person of the chief martial law administrator and appointed civil martial law administrators in the provinces. No where in the world can you find any example of the civil chief martial law administrator and martial law administrator being appointed. The administration of this party enforced martial law to crush "the movement of the system of Prophet Mohammad" and the leading members of this party have gathered together under the protective umbrella of martial law.

Analysing the law and order situation in the country in general and in Sind in particular, Maulana Abbasi said that the situation in Sind had deteriorated. On the one hand, he said, the bureaucracy and the police have made the life of the poor people miserable, and on the other hand criminals have been looting the people in broad daylight and playing havoc with their property and honor. Convicts in police custody are being killed. There is not a single night when dozens of cases of robbery, highway robbery and homicide do not occur. All that the helpless people can do is curse. But the present government is extremely objectionable; it appears to be bent on tormenting them. Maulana Abbasi said that the present government has no reasonable excuse for delaying elections any longer and should therefore hold elections and transfer power to the people immediately. He said that any further delay in elections would be contrary to national interests and dangerous for the safety and security of the country. Maulana Abbasi listened to the complaints of the people during his visit and said that police and government officials do nothing without first taking a bribe. The police, the bureaucracy and police officials plunder the people by day, and by night it is done by criminals and bandits dressed as police. Government, he said, has decided to issue regulations to grant arms licenses to people so that they can protect themselves. But the licenses were issued to ministerial favorites, landowners and influential people. All of the undesirable people in the area succeeded in acquiring arms in large numbers, whereas the helpless people are still at the mercy of criminals, police and government officials. During a press conference in Nawab Shah, Maulana Abbasi demanded that in view of the situation, the government disclose the number of arms licenses issued on the recommendations of the ministers, the number issued by each minister and carried out an investigation to find the people to whom the arms licenses have been issued.

In reply to a correspondent's question in Khairpur, Maulana Abbasi reiterated that the defunct Jamaat-e Islami is ready for an alliance with other religious parties having identical views and considers an immediate alliance of religious parties with identical views as necessary. He said that without such an alliance, no concrete progress could be made in resolving the national crisis. In reply to a question concerning Pir Pagara, Maulana Abbasi said that he is a king without a crown. Maulana Jan Mohammad Abbasi, who was accompanied by Mufti Daimuddin, deputy leader of Tahrik-e Islami, Sind, left for Hyderabad after completing his tour.

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PNP'S QASUR GARDEZI REVIEWS PPP HISTORY, OTHER PAST INCIDENTS

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 24 Feb 83 p 1, 8

["Former Afghan Premier Reveals: Secretly Frequent Kabul-Qasur Gardezi. Bhutto Was Removed From the Ministry After the Tashkent Treaty; He Wanted To Join NAP"]

[Text] Islamabad, 23 Feb--Syed Qasur Gardezi, secretary general of the defunct PNP [Pakistan National Party], quoting Mr Hashim Maiwandwal, former Afghan prime minister, said that the manifesto and the flag of the defunct People's Party were prepared by Mr Hashim Maiwandwal and Mr Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto in the Hotel Intercontinental in Kabul. In an interview with the weekly MUSULMAN of Islamabad, Syed Qasur Ali Gardezi said that during the former regime, when Jamiat and NAP [National Awami Party] ministries were formed in the North West Frontier Province and Baluchistan, he had gone to Afghanistan to bring back Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, and he had a long talk with former Afghan prime minister Hashim Maiwandwal. It was during this meeting that Mr Maiwandwal told him that the manifesto and flag of the People's Party had been prepared by him and Mr Z. A. Bhutto in the Kabul Intercontinental. Mr Bhutto took the flag and manifesto to Pakistan and declared the formation of the People's Party. Mr Maiwandwal also stated that Mr Bhutto visited Kabul on a number of occasions during Yahya Khan's regime. Syed Qasur Gardezi further stated that if Maulana Maudoodi and Maulana Bhashani had not persisted, Miss Fatima Jinnah would not have consented to contest elections with Ayub Khan. He said that during Miss Fatima Jinnah's election campaign for 'Mother of the Nation,' Sheikh Mujibur Rahman conspired to prevent Maulana Bhashani from attending election campaign meetings held for Mother of the Nation and that there was a bitter exchange of words between venerable Miss Fatima Jinnah and Maulana Bhashani. According to Mr Gardezi, after the Tashkent treaty, Mr Bhutto did not resign from the ministry but on the contrary was expelled, and he made every endeavor to become the secretary general of NAP but Wali Khan and Bhashani rejected this bid. If Mr Bhutto's request had been accepted, then the People's Party would not have come into existence. In answer to a question, Mr Gardezi said that in the 1970 elections, by boycotting the NAP (Bhashani group) we became victims of an international conspiracy. It was a mistake on our part. He said that Maulana Bhashani was informed by an important source that Pakistan would be divided into two parts and that because of this he had lost his interest in politics and that after reaching Bangladesh, for the sake of his own survival and that of his friends, he began raising the slogans of Bangladesh "Zinda-bad"--"Long Live"

Bangladesh--and bid farewell to West Pakistan. But Mr Gardezi, who was included in the board of directors of Progressive Papers Ltd., also disclosed the fact that the well-known communist leader C. R. Aslam was at first included in the publisher's board of NAWA-I-WAQT. Mian Iftikharuddin could not survive the shock caused by the government take-over of Progressive Papers Ltd. and died as a result. Distribution of barren land among the refugees brought about a split between Mian Iftikharuddin and the Muslim League leadership. Mian Iftikharuddin, as a minister for Rehabilitation, wanted to distribute unproductive land among the refugees. But Mian Mumtaz Daulatana and Nawab Mamdot opposed this move, as a result of which Mian Iftikharuddin broke with the Muslim League. Syed Qasuri Gardezi holds the Muslim League fully responsible for the problems of Pakistani-Muslim League leaders were inexperienced in the art of ruling and the rulers put themselves in the hands of government officials. In Pakistan, irregularities in elections were first started by the Muslim League and in the 1951 elections the first ballot box was broken into by the Muslim League. Syed Qasuri Gardezi, who was in London some time ago for medical treatment, in reply to a question about Sardar Ataullah Mengal said that the latter was very much disappointed with politics in Pakistan. He complained about the intellect of the people of the Punjab who still cannot understand the conspiracies being hatched in the country and the way the affairs of the state are being conducted. He said that the common man seems to be relieved as a result of the present government's policy of improving relations with India. If the government succeeds in its efforts to patch up differences (with India), these efforts will be considered a record-breaking achievement.

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MEMBER OF MUSLIM LEAGUE, JURIST CRITICIZES MRD

Rawalpindi HURMAT in Urdu 17 Mar 83 pp 16-22

[Interview with Khan Iqbal Ahmed Khan, prominent lawyer and Muslim League leader, by Ibn Ismail; date not specified]

[Excerpts] Khan Iqbal Ahmed is considered as one of the leading lawyers and political leaders of our country. He has been connected with the Lahore bar for the past 25 years and, since 1974, has been elected twice to membership in the Pakistani Bar Council. He was also its vice chairman for one term. Nowadays, he is working as secretary of the Pakistani Bar Council and as editor-in-chief of its official organ, PAKISTAN BAR COUNCIL JOURNAL. Additionally, he has represented Pakistan at several international conferences and at the United Nations. He started his political career in 1946 as a member of Pakistan's liberation movement and was a member of the Muslim League's provincial council until 1952 and of the central council after that. He also served as the joint secretary of Punjab Muslim League council from 1962 to 1972 and joint secretary of the Pakistan Muslim League from 1967 to 1973 and has at times acted as secretary general of the league. At the same time, he was a member of the league's central executive committee and was appointed central secretary of the Pakistani Muslim League in 1976. He acted as Fatima Jinrah's polling agent in Lahore during the 1964 presidential elections. During the Nizam-e Mustafa movement, he was the senior vice president of the Punjab branch of the National Alliance. In short, he has an in-depth understanding of the country's political ups and downs. Recently he visited HURMAT's office and was interviewed by Ibn Ismail senior member of our editorial board. His opinions on several issues are presented in the following pages.

[Question] What are the causes of the failure of Pakistani politics?

[Answer] The biggest reason for the failure of a democratic governing system in Pakistan is the misconduct of our political leaders. Since the inception of Pakistan, its politics have been the monopoly of landlords and capitalists. If one looks at the leaders of all political parties and their mutual relationships, the political scene of the country would show only a few families ruling the roost. These families seem to have divided themselves into various political parties for selfish reasons and have brought their capitalist habits and tribal prejudices into politics. They seem to be opposed to each other, but actually they are all united. Whenever their personal goals are threatened by a third party, they close ranks but spread out again when the danger is past.

Politics is a continuous process of service to the country and it requires sacrifice, sincerity and selflessness. Our politicians lack these qualities. Also, since the politicians are connected with our bureaucracy, rather we should say their nephews are running our bureaucracy, with their help of their money and connections, and they do not let the political leaders of the middle class emerge. I believe that the politics of our country will change and be successful only if political leadership is taken away from these landlords and the middle class is given a chance to emerge. I make this statement on the basis of my 30, 35 years experience in the country's politics. During this period, several political fronts were established and I had the opportunity to deal with members of the various political groups. There is no dearth of intelligent and sincere people in these parties, but the problem is that each of the parties is controlled by these landlords and capitalists.

The second reason for the failure of politics in this country is that our leaders follow a path of convenience rather than of conviction. The fundamental reason for this mentality is that their purpose for being in politics is to gain power and not to conduct political affairs. Politics, especially politics of principles, requires hard work, which these leaders abhor. Their laziness has resulted in the formation of joint fronts and alliances. Such fronts discourage internal progress and the initiation of programs within these parties. The political worker ends up working for the joint front and not for the party of which he is a member. This practice has resulted in the absence of any party with strong roots among the people. Our political climate has not improved since 1964 or even since 1951, and it constantly falls prey to palace conspiracies. The lack of any political base in these political parties has hurt the honest political workers most; their talent languishes and no new leaders can emerge. One negative aspect of this attitude of our leaders is that many of our political workers have also become wayward. For example, even common political workers spent their time and effort gaining wealth during the rule of the former government. In short, landlord politics is still rampant in our country and, due to its connection with the bureaucracy, it comprises all kinds of ills.

To steer our country in the right direction and implement Islamic rule, we must encourage participation by the middle class in our leadership. Our rulers must learn from history and, to put our country on solid political footing, accept the challenge offered by landlord politics and the traditional bureaucracy. Believe me, the middle class is more patriotic, principled and devoted to Islam than these landlords. Recent demonstrations at various places were also led by these landlord politicians. Actually, this landlord faction wants to run every government in its own way.

[Question] But Khan Sahib, the leadership of these parties is elected by party members. Why do they not bring about a change?

[Answer] This is a false supposition. Actually the leadership of any party has never been elected by its workers. The leaders are chosen by a few people and they inform the workers after everything has been done. Unfortunately, our politics is an arena where money talks and the common political workers do not have the money to participate in this game. Another problem is that the attitudes of political leaders and their money have corrupted most of the workers also. They do not cooperate with other workers for their selfish reasons, do

not demand the just election of political leaders and accept the leadership imposed from above.

[Question] In other words, you do not think that any political party follows democratic principles in electing its leaders and their claim to democratic system is a farce?

[Answer] Your impression is right. No party can claim that its leaders were elected by democratic method and yes, to demonstrate their adherence to the principles of democracy they must first elect their leaders by majority vote. This shortcoming puts us in bad light. We do not practice what we preach. The latest example of this system is the establishment of the MRD [Movement for the Restoration of Democracy]. It was established by some landlords and capitalists without any input from the regular party workers. Thus, this is not a political joint front but a conglomeration of these monopolizing bigshot landowners who, despite their past deeds, claim to support democratic principles.

[Question] You are a practicing lawyer and a member of the Pakistani Bar Council. Can you tell us the truth about the movement the lawyers are carrying on against Pakistani legal practitioners, the bar council act and certain laws?

[Answer] The recent movement of lawyers does not represent the feelings of most lawyers in the country. This is just another political movement organized by MRD and encouraged by certain elements who were part of the former government. Various cheap slogans are being raised to mislead ordinary lawyers. If you try to identify the organizers of conventions and meetings held in this connection you will notice familiar faces from the defunct People's Party or left wingers in the MRD. It has become our habit to believe empty slogans and ignore the underlying facts.

The amendment to the Pakistani Bar Council Act is unnecessary in my opinion as there are no practical benefits from it. This amendment, however, provided MRD with a new slogan. A close scrutiny of this amendment would show that it would not affect the activities of Pakistani Bar Council, state bar councils and bar associations. The only purpose of this amendment is to stop lawyers' bodies from becoming political organizations.

The establishment of Qazi courts also resulted in a lot of hue and cry that it was unhealthy for the legal profession. The draft presented by Majlis-e Shoura, however, does not indicate the possibility of any adverse effect on lawyers. They will be allowed to practice law in these new courts as well. Another aspect of this law is the recognition of the long-sought demand of lawyers for separation of the judiciary [justice] from the executive branch. The new Qazi courts ordinance incorporates this in its provisions. The second change brought about by this law will allow civil and criminal cases to be heard in the same court. This system is already in effect in some parts of the country. Additionally, this amendment fosters quicker implementation of justice. As for the supreme court and the high courts, this amendment does not affect them at all. To provide justice quickly and cheaply is an issue of great importance, even in advanced countries like England and the United States, as well as in India, and high officials from the justice systems of these countries express their concern about this issue.

As for the law of evidence, it has nothing against the lawyers in it. The draft we have reviewed shows changes proposed to eliminate those aspects that are against the Koran and Islamic teachings. Muslims, including lawyers, would welcome this change. In the 1973 constitution, it is stated that Pakistan will not enact any law that is contrary to the Islamic laws and the Koran. The bottom line is that various politicians are behind this lawyers' movement in order to confuse the issues and grind their own political axe. These amendments are being made to bring our laws more in line with Islamic justice and have nothing to do with any changes in the legal system or the practice of law. I consider this commendable and it should have taken place soon after the establishment of Pakistan. We have to wait for the results of these amendments. However, Pakistan is on the right track now and, by the grace of God, the day is not far off when we will be able to realize the dream Quaid-e Azam had, and Pakistan will be the ideal Islamic nation.

[Question] What future political system do you foresee?

[Answer] It is premature to comment on the political system at this time. Majlis-e Shoura has decided to appoint a 30-member committee to report on this subject as early as possible. The chairman of the Majlis is authorized to appoint members to this committee. I cannot visualize the final shape of the political system, but I do expect that there will be provisions to make access to legislative assemblies by grabbing power or using money, force or corrupt methods impossible. Only people with ability, leadership potential and faith in the Pakistani system will be allowed to come forward. If this does not happen, then the establishment of Islamic rule is impossible and there will be no hope of any revolutionary change in our country. Our 35 years of existence show that people came to power only on the bases of wealth. Cronyism and corrupt means. No stable government can be established until such elements are eradicated from the political scene.

[Question] There is a rumor about a new party being established by the members of Majlis-e Shoura.

[Answer] No party or group is being conceived in Majlis-e Shoura. Also, since political activities in the country are banned, we cannot expect such a thing at present.

[Question] Some people are questioning the credibility of our present government.

[Answer] Credibility is an international concept and a look at our foreign policy proves it. Even our enemies cannot criticize it. Pakistan joined the nonaligned movement during this era and has become one of its active, effective members in a short time. Similarly, the Islamic Conference has elected Pakistan to represent the Islamic world. Pakistan is a member of the United Nations' most important body, the Security Council. Our relations with countries in the East and West have improved and stabilized. The present government demonstrated its credibility by improving the image of Pakistan in international politics. Political hassles within always go on; the important thing is the position accorded you by the world.

PLANNING GROUP PROPOSES HUGE INVESTMENT TARGET

Karachi DAWN in English 11 Apr 83 pp 1, 10

[Text] Islamabad, April 10: The Planning Commission group on industrial policy and strategy has proposed a Rs 60 billion gross investment target for the Sixth Plan period, beginning July 1, this year.

Disclosing this at a Press briefing here today, the group Chairman Syed Baber Ali, said that the proposed gross investment target was the minimum required for achieving a 10 per cent plus rate of industrial growth during the Plan period.

In the overall investment the share of the public sector enterprises has been proposed to be fixed at one-third while the share of private sector has been enhanced to two-third.

The fiscal measures proposed by the group for promoting industrial activity during the plan period are estimated to cause a revenue loss of around Rs 1500-2000 million to the Government which is expected to be more than offset in the next few years by additional revenue which the "rapidly growing industrial sector will generate.

In order to reduce uncertainty in the industrial environment, the group has proposed that the Government should make a clear-cut statement at the beginning of the plan to the effect that fiscal, commercial, monetary and exchange rate policies effective at the start of the plan period would be retained for the life of the plan.

It was further proposed that if any change in the fiscal policies became necessary during the plan period those who had undertaken investment prior to the change should be compensated for any loss that they would suffer because of the change in policies.

The group has identified five industries for priority treatment. These include engineering industry, agrobased (non-traditional) industry, agricultural marketing (storage, grading, packing, transportation), electronics and export oriented industries which export 50 per cent of their production.

The additional incentives recommended for the priority industries include total tax exemption of all type of assessee for the entire income investment in the equity and a long term tax holiday.

The additional incentives recommended for the priority industries include total tax exemption of all type of assessee for the entire income investment in the equity and a long term tax holiday.

With regard to removal of controls the group has suggested allowing market prices to reflect existing scarcities and permitting private sector to invest on the basis of market signals, with the Government providing sufficient and timely information so as to prevent waste of resources through the creation of excess capacity.

In this respect it has also been recommended to reduce the number of rules and regulations pertaining to industry, streamlining and simplification of sanctioning procedure for investment and licensing of raw material imports, reducing the number of government agencies which an individual enterprise has to deal with to a minimum.

Recommendations pertaining to the fiscal policy include rebate of 20 per cent in super tax on profits of industrial companies, and 100 per cent depreciation allowance in the year of production with permission to set off the allowance against income of the succeeding years as at present.

To compensate for inflation, an additional 50 per cent depreciation has been suggested to be allowed to industries provided they invest this amount on acquisition of plant and machinery in the period of five years. It has also been recommended to allow increased tax credit in balancing, modernisation, replacement and expansion.

With regard to import tariff structure it has been recommended that import duty in capital goods should be reduced to 50 per cent of the present level. Spare parts and tools belonging to any particular machine should be subjected to the same rate of duty as the machine.

To encourage local capital goods industry, it has been suggested that an incentive should be provided for acquiring locally produced capital goods by allowing depreciation at 200 per cent of the cost of locally produced machinery.

It has also been recommended that all electronic components should be assessed under one general heading and assigned a rate of duty of 20 per cent and zero sales tax and the price of iron and steel products produced in Pakistan Steel Mills should be subsidised so that its products are sold at near about the international prices.

There should be one rate of import duty for each material regardless of who uses it, and if the Government wishes to assist any particular industry it should not do so through concessions in import duty on raw materials.

Discussing export rebates, it was recommended that for products where country-wise export quotas existed and were being easily fulfilled, the export rebate should not be more than 10 per cent. While for other products export rebate should not exceed 20 per cent because "higher the rate the greater the chances of frauds."

Labour policy

Discussing the labour policy the group recommended that employers should be given the right to terminate the services of any permanent workman without assigning any reason at 6 months notice with the proviso that not more than 5 per cent of the work force may be terminated in this manner in any one year.

The group suggested that the Government should only fix minimum wage while benefits and facilities should be decided through collective bargaining. And trade unions should be required to hold elections every two years

while agreements and settlements between unions and management should be for a minimum of two years and should be binding on all parties.

It has also been recommended that industrial relations ordinance 1969 should not apply to establishments employing less than 50 workers and the number of industrial holidays should not be more than 15 in a year.

The group has proposed a comprehensive plan for worker training and retention of trained personnel and recommended a 15 per cent tax credit as for BMR on the total expenditure of the training department including liberalisation of imports of training equipment and exemption from custom duty, sales tax and surcharge for this equipment.

Income accruing from training schools has been recommended to be treated as tax free income on similar lines as promoting know-how services overseas.

To retain trained personnel in the country the tax law has been recommended to be altered so that the maximum effective rate on salaries does not exceed 25 per cent.

To increase the availability of credit to industry it has been recommended that the State Bank should provide a re-financing facility to commercial banks on loans to industry so that banks have a positive incentive to lend to industry. And also, industry should be allowed to directly raise funds from the public by allowing quoted industrial companies to issue bearer bonds against prospectus approved by the controller capital issues.

PPI adds;

Regarding denationalisation, the group recommended that the Government should sell as many business units as possible, whether nationalised in 1972-76 or earlier, by auction. This issue was considered by the working group after reviewing the problems involving valuation, lack of willingness of original owners in certain cases, and the labour. Auction should solve the problems of valuation and lack of willingness of original owners and hopefully by phased disinvestment problems and labour will be minimised.

HEAVY RAINS MAY DELAY WHEAT HARVESTING

Karachi DAWN in English 9 Apr 83 p 1

[Article by Tariq Zaheen]

[Excerpt] LAHORE, April 8: Harvesting of wheat in the Punjab is likely to be delayed owing to heavy rain. Harvesting in Bahawalpur and Rahimyarkhan areas has already been suspended.

The Provincial Secretary, Agriculture, told 'Dawn' that to assess the situation, a meeting of experts would be convened and after that a detailed official version would be released.

According to experts, harvesting of wheat is generally in full swing in the province from April 15. The official quarters, however, hesitated to comment when asked if there were any chances of damage to wheat crop owing to the current wet spell, but they were of the opinion that if the rain continued the situation might become difficult to control.

They claimed that wheat harvesting had already been completed in Multan and other nearby areas.

According to them, a mild attack of rust and blight on gram crop in the Sargodha area had been controlled.

CSO: 4600/550

INCREASE IN GAS PRICES TERMED IMPERATIVE

Karachi DAWN in English 11 Apr 83 p 7

[Text] FAISALABAD, April 10: In view of the marked disparity in cost of consumption between sui gas, on one hand, and coal, firewood, or kerosine oil, on the other, it was imperative that the price of gas be "rationalised".

This was asserted by Major General(Rtd.) Rao Farman Ali, Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources, at Chiniot, 38 km from here, on Saturday, while talking to newsmen after the inaugural function of the FFC storage depot.

Furthermore, he said it was not likely that the internal prices of petroleum product may be reduced as a result of reduction in OPEC prices as no country in the world, except the United States, had reduced their internal prices so far.

Giving details, the Gas supply position, he said that due to the acute short supply, the Government was constrained to cut off the supply line to cement, sugar and several other sectors and ask them to switch over to alternative sources of power. In the foreseeable future, there was no likelihood of any change in this policy, he added.

Replying to a question on this issue, he said that as many as 80 different types of industries had been "plugged off" so far.

In reply to a question from this correspondent about the chances of a gas price rise in the budget, the Minister replied in the affirmative.

Justifying the Government's stand on this point, he said at present the prices of firewood, local coal, and kerosine oil were many times higher than that of the gas. In

order to reduce this price gap and to encourage consumers in switching over to alternative sources of and rise in gas price was imperative.

Replying to yet another question by this correspondent as to whether this decision was the outcome of pressure from World Bank and other financing agencies, the Minister said in a jocular mood that the pressure might be on the Ministry; his own self was immune to it.

Referring to oil production in country, he said the position was quite ironical. Elaborating his contention, he said that in Iran a few bombs hitting just one oil well resulted in "leakage" of 15,000 barrels per day whereas our total production was a bare 15000 barrels.

This was because the depth in Iran was hardly 3,000 while our normal striking depth was 15,000 to 30,000 feet. That is why the digging of an oil well in Pakistan was costing as much as Rs 160 million, whereas in Iran this expenditure ranged from Rs 15 million to 25 million, he said.

He further remarked that had our 16 or 17 wells been totally commissioned we would have not only become self supporting in our oil requirements by now but would also have entered the camp of oil exporting countries.

In reply to a query by this correspondent whether oil production was increasing or decreasing, he said it had shot up from 9,000 to 14,500 barrels during his tenure.

Asked whether there was any likelihood of reduction of oil prices

in the country in view of the reduction in world oil prices, his reply was a big "No".

He said as a sequel to the delinking of Pak rupee with US dollar, Pakistan was forced to pay an amount almost equal to the reduction in world price, just bridge this gap.

Furthermore, funds are needed for exploration of oil and digging of new wells which was a costly affair and hence the prospect of reduction of domestic oil prices was out of the question.

When asked to explain the policy in respect of new gas connections for domestic use, the Minister said that there was no official restriction, but the quota of domestic connections may have to be curtailed. Fresh applications, however, shall not be entertained. Nonetheless, the embargo on industrial connections will continue.

Energy policy

Referring to the future energy policy, Rao Farman Ali said that the new policy would be made public in May this year. The underlying idea of the new policy would be "self reliance" instead of "dependance", and no stones shall be left unturned for attaining this goal. For this purpose exploitation of alternative sources of fuel e.g. firewood, coal, kerosine oil, solar energy, biogas, etc.. would be encouraged.

He asserted that if we did not use our vast resources of coal, these would go waste. Furthermore, the future use of gas would be restricted to production of fertiliser and petroleum and chemicals products, etc., where it was a must.

He said that oil exploration was receiving an edge over other development projects. For this, a number of companies from Saudi Arabia, other Middle East countries and the private sector in Pakistan would be invited. The latter would be specifically asked to participate and would be provided maximum possible facilities.

In reply to yet another question as to whether the taxation policy in the next budget would be "lenient" or any new taxes would have to be imposed, the Minister said that every community had, per force, to pay a price for development.

He said any reduction in taxation could not be possible and those politicians, who were claiming that if they came to power they would reduce the burden of taxation, were just "bluffing the nation".

"If we need more new roads, schools and hospitals, we shall have to pay for these", he said.

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WORK ON LOCOMOTIVE PLANT TO BEGIN SOON

Karachi DAWN in English 11 Apr 83 p 10

[Text]

PESHAWAR, April 10: The Federal Minister for Railways, Nawabzada Abdul Ghafur Khan Hoti, has said that construction work on the first railway locomotive factory would start shortly at Bara Banda, near Mardan, at an estimated cost of Rs 1,500 million, including a foreign exchange component of Rs 500 million.

Talking to newsmen at his residence before visiting the site for the factory on Saturday, he said that it would be built with the collaboration of Japan. The factory would be a complete plant and would make all the parts used for manufacturing locomotives. He disclosed that negotiations in this connection were in progress with the Government of Japan.

He said that the factory would start production by the end of 1985 and as many as 25 locomotives would be manufactured per annum in a single shift which would later be doubled. He maintained that 6000 people would get jobs in the factory for which 250 acres of land would be acquired. Initially some persons would be given training by the Government of Japan who, in turn, would train local people.

The Minister was of the view that with the construction of the factory, the lot of the people of the area would improve considerably as many more small-scale manufacturing units would also be built in the vicinity of the factory.

Later, he inspected the proposed site for the construction of the factory.

Islamic order

Later, addressing the notables of Mardan District at his residence, Nawabzada Abdul Ghafur Khan said it was the endeavour of the present Government to pave way for the achievement of the goal for which the country had been established after tremendous sacrifices.

Referring to the implementation of Zakat and Ushr system, establishment of Qazi courts and some other steps for the Islamisation of society, he said the day was not very far off when complete Islamic order would be implemented in society. He, however, said that complete Islamisation of society would take some time as it was being implemented gradually.—APP

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MOVE TO REOPEN KHOKHRAPAR ROUTE

Karachi DAWN in English 11 Apr 83 p 12

[Text] Mr Mahmoodul Huq Usmani yesterday asked the members of the Federal Council, particularly those from Sind province, to ensure that the move for reopening of the Khokhrapar route to facilitate travel of the divided families in the sub-continent reached its logical conclusion.

Showing a million signatures scroll to the Federal Council members at a luncheon meeting at his residence yesterday, Mr Usmani said the signature campaign was launched for "human consideration," and to minimise the hardships, both materially and physically, of the people. It has no political consideration at all, he asserted.

He said the majority of people visiting India reside in Sind and after-reopening the Khokhrapar route the travelling distance for various places will be reduced from about 3,000 miles to about 1,200 miles. Similarly, the time will also be reduced to 12 hours only.

Mr Usmani said the Khokhrapar route remained open till India and Pakistan were logged in 1965, adding that there was no harm in opening it when both countries were striving to improve relations.

He asked the members of the Federal Council to associate Ministers nominated from Sind so

that they could take up the matter at the Cabinet meeting on "humanitarian grounds."

Syed Saeed Hasan, member of the Federal Council, speaking on the occasion, said President Zia-ul-Haq was considerate on "humanitarian matters," and efforts would be made to clear "any misunderstanding" that might have arisen after the signature campaign was launched. He was optimistic about the President's support if the case was put before him in the proper perspective.

He said the re-opening of Khokhrapar route in no way differed with those already operational in the country dealing with other countries. He said millions of people should not be deprived of the facility. He said there was no sense in forming a non-official fact-finding committee as proposed by Mr Usmani. The facts of "human consideration," were crystal clear.

Chairman of all District Councils and Municipal Committees in Sind put their signatures on the scroll, Mr Usmani said.

Begum Mehmooda Sultana, member, Federal Council, expressed similar views on the re-opening of the Khokhrapar route.

Mr Hameed Dadabhoy and Hafiz Mohammad Taqi, members, Federal Council, were also present on the occasion.

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SIGNATURE DRIVE FOR PRISONERS' RELEASE

Karachi DAWN in English 11 Apr 83 p 14

[Text] LAHORE, April 10: The signature campaign for the release of political detenus has been received with enthusiastic response by lawyers.

Prominent among those who put their signatures to the proforma devised by the Amnesty International calling for a universal amnesty to all prisoners of conscience are:

Mr Afzal Haider, President, Lahore High Court Bar; Mr Mansur Malik, President, District Bar; former Law Ministers S.M. Zafar and Meraj Khalid; former High Court Judge Saeed Malik; former chief of Lahore High Court Bar Abid Hasan Minto; Rao Abdur Rashid, Secretary, MRD, Punjab, who was only recently released from Sahiwal Jail after about four months; and Editor, weekly Vie-wpoint, Mr Mazhar Ali Khan.

Seventy lawyers put their signature on the very first day.

In a statement issued today, Mr Aitzaz Ahsan, one of the three organisers of the campaign, said the registers and proforma concerning the campaign would be sent to all the political parties within the next two or three days.

Registers would also be maintained for obtaining signatures in all District Bar Associations.

Mr Atizaz said further that he and his colleagues would personally call on some of the senior political leaders and prominent personalities from other walks of life to obtain their endorsement of the campaign.

The two other organisers are: Mr Zafar Malik and Mr Shaukat Umair Pirzada.

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NEW GAS PRICE TO BE ANNOUNCED AFTER BUDGET

Karachi DAWN in English 11 Apr 83 p 14

[Text] LAHORE, April 10: The first slab of the Government's "phased gas price increase programme" will come into force after announcement of the Federal Budget 1983-84.

This was categorically stated today by the Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources, Maj. Gen. (Retd) Rao Farman Ali, while talking to newsmen at a function here.

For this purpose, the Ministry of Petroleum had prepared a plan to discourage consumption of gas as fuel and promote its industrial use as raw material only. The Minister was asked whether the Government intended to announce the new prices of gas at the time of national Budget in June this year or as pre or post-Budget announcements — now in practice — in the shape of mini-budgets.

Giving some of the salient features of his formula of price increase, especially for the industrial sector, the Minister informed reporters that the Government was determined to take all such steps under which entrepreneurs could switch over to the consumption of other conventional sources of energy as fuel including the use of imported oil.

Rao Farman Ali was optimistic that with the increase in gas prices more revenues would be collected and the cost of production of a number of any similar type of industrial units using gas as fuel would be brought at par.

When asked to give details of the Government's efforts for the short and long-term planning for the exploration of oil and gas reserves in the country, he did not provide any facts and figures but said negotiations were being made with some foreign firms.

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JUBILATION OVER ACQUISITION OF F-16'S QUESTIONED

Karachi AMN in Urdu 22 May 83 p 2

[Column by Jumma Khan: "Will the Fighter Planes Solve People's Problems?"]

[Text] The United States offered Pakistan military and economic aid totaling more than \$3 billion. After lengthy talks, the offer was accepted and the agreement formally signed. Action on this agreement has begun. When a few F-16 fighters reached Pakistan, the government made it appear as though without the fighters our forces were completely ineffective and with the F-16's they had obtained a magical weapon that would render them unconquerable. Following the arrival of F-16 fighters came the report that sophisticated fighter aircraft had been acquired from China as well. Off and on, there have been reports indicating which type of advanced weapons have been obtained from which countries.

Probably no one can object that the most advanced weapons are being purchased, but anyone can ask the question: Can the problems of the Pakistani people be solved by the acquisition of billions of rupees' worth of armaments? If our problems cannot be solved with the help of arms, then why this haste to obtain them? Why is no attention being given to economic problems? When will those problems be solved?

Along with military aid, the United States also offered economic assistance. As part of its military aid, Pakistan has received F-16 fighters. But what about economic help? How much machinery and how many parts have been received by way of economic aid?

Why is it that to obtain economic help in order to solve people's problems we don't see the same frantic activity that marked the acquisition of military aid? If Pakistan could get fighter aircraft of the F-16 type in less than a year, couldn't machinery for a few industrial plants also reach us in the same period?

If anyone claims that economic problems are not of a pressing nature and that military problems are, he would be hard put to find supporting evidence.

Our security can be endangered only by neighboring countries and not by invaders from overseas.

One of our neighbors is Iran. We have good relations with it. Moreover, Iran is already preoccupied in a war with neighboring Iraq. Another neighbor is China, whom we consider our best friend. Our third neighbor is India. To India we offered a nonaggression pact and in return India has made an offer of a friendship treaty. In this connection, talks are under way. For years now there have been no clashes and no military activity on the border. The two countries are moving closer and trade links are growing. Indian Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi has said that under the Simla Agreement, a new era has dawned in the relations between the two countries. On his part, General Zia has repeatedly advocated that the two nations forget their past conflicts and concentrate on developing friendly relations. Under these circumstances, it is hard to imagine a new war between India and Pakistan. There is another reality of fundamental significance. Today's India is far more powerful than the India of 1965 or 1971. Pakistan's defense is also far stronger than it was in 1965 or 1971. India knows full well that a preemptive attack on Pakistan will confront Pakistan's strong defense, frustrating any hopes of easy victories. Pakistan also realizes that it lacks the offensive capabilities necessary to secure any major victories in the event of a surprise attack on India. It is the considered opinion of many impartial observers that a Pakistani attack on India would be suicidal and that it cannot hope to destroy the war machinery of contemporary India. On the other hand, an Indian attack on Pakistan, though not suicidal, would also fail to achieve major victories, for Pakistan is fully capable of fighting a prolonged defensive war. The commanders of both countries are aware of these realities; there is no danger, therefore, of a major war between the two countries.

Now there remains Afghanistan. In the past, it never posed a threat to us. Moreover, even according to our own newspapers, Afghanistan's Army is smaller than our police force. Russian forces obviously are present in Afghanistan, but even their number is said to be less than 100,000. It is possible to argue that Russian forces in Afghanistan can be greatly augmented at a very rapid rate and could then become a danger to us. That there is no danger from either Afghanistan or the Soviet Union is clear from General Zia's remarks that the USSR has promised not to jeopardize Pakistan's security and Pakistan has complete faith in the assurances. Pakistan's defense minister, Ali Ahmed Talpur, has also said that there is no danger of war with the USSR. It is clear, therefore, that there is no danger of invasion from either Afghanistan or the Soviet Union. Now, can anyone explain how Pakistan is benefiting from the speedy acquisition of the most advanced weapons, fighters and bombers?

Of course, obsolete weapons should be replaced by the most advanced weapons and the defense of the nation should never be allowed to weaken. But the fundamental question relates to priorities. Why should we acquire something we don't need right now? And why should there be neglect in meeting our immediate needs?

If economic aid were urgently required to solve national problems, then economic aid should have been obtained first. And if military aid were immediately necessary to solve military problems, then before anything else we should have acquired the most sophisticated fighters, bombers, tanks, cannons and missiles from China, the United States, and so forth.

Pakistan is not a puny country of 10 or 20 million people. It is a country 80 million strong, all of whom are determined not to shrink from any sacrifices in the defense of their motherland. Pakistan is a prominent member of the Islamic Conference. It is also a prominent member of the nonaligned movement. It does not lack influential friends. Under these conditions, one cannot imagine any country daring to interfere in the affairs of Pakistan or committing aggression against it. If any country does so, it will not escape unpunished. The world of today does not permit any country to enjoy the fruits of its aggression.

Today our basic problems are economic problems. We need new industries. We need heavy industries and technology to enable us to make rapid economic progress, to attain self-sufficiency, to eradicate poverty and thus to make the country prosperous. If any country gives us help to achieve these objectives, we should welcome that help.

We are short of national gas.

We are short of electricity.

We are short of drinking water.

We need to explore our mineral wealth.

In our country, the number of unemployed is rising. Skilled people cannot obtain gainful employment. The number of educated unemployed is increasing rapidly. We have to solve these problems. And for this we need industrial, technical and scientific assistance. But instead of obtaining this kind of assistance, we are celebrating the acquisition of F-16 fighters and Chinese warplanes.

The present administration is neither representative nor political. It is a military administration and, naturally, military problems are closer to its heart. If the military has assumed power, then it becomes its moral duty to take sincere interest in people's problems and to take every step to solve economic problems. If the military administration takes no interest in people's difficulties and instead works only to make the army strong, then how can it win people's confidence? Angels will not descend from heaven to solve people's problems. God does not improve the lot of those who do not care to improve their own situation.

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PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

JUI TO REUNITE--Lahore, April 10: The defunct Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam (Drakh-wasti group) has decided to accept the Maulana Habib Gul formula for reunification with the other JUI group headed by Maulana Fazalur Rehman. The decision was made at the meeting of central general council and Majlis Shooraa of the defunct JUI faction which concluded here on Sunday.--PPI.
[Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 11 Apr 83 p 7]

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May 13th 1983